

# THE Hongkong Weekly Press

## China Overland Trade Report.

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### BIRTH.

On March 12th at Shanghai, the wife of R. D. HOOLEY, of a daughter.

### MARRIAGE.

On March 12th, at Shanghai, Percy KIDDERMAN, to Lucy Evelyn PIERCE.

### DEATHS.

On March 10th, at Shanghai, JAMES ADAMS BALLARD, aged 51 years.

At his residence, "Duart," Arbutnot Road, at 10.30 p.m., on the 18th March, 1908, AGOSTINHO GUILHERME ROMANO, Consul-General for Portugal and Consul for Brazil, in Hongkong.

## Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 19A, DES VUEX ROAD.

LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

### ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The English Mail of February 21st arrived per the s.s. *Malta*, on Friday, the 20th instant.

### FAR EASTERN NEWS.

The Shanghai Electric trams are now running, and the Chinese have made no fuss. We notice one simple and good idea. Some of the standards have been ringed with white, or red and white bands. At those marked with white only the trams will stop if desired while the red bands indicate compulsory stopping places.

On Mar. 16, when a magistrate was informed that a prisoner before him had had his passage booked for Port Darwin, his Worship asked: "Where is that? Is it in New Guinea?" "No," replied the intelligent police officer; "it is in Australia." "Oh," said his Worship, who made no further comment.

It is the intention of the Directors of the Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd. to recommend at the next annual meeting a final dividend of thirty-seven shillings and six pence (37s. 6d.) per share on the old issue, and thirty shillings and five pence (30s. 5d.) per share on the new issue, at the exchange of 2:1 for the past year.

On March 14th at the Happy Valley at the close of the cricket match between the Civil Service Club and the Telegraphs, the Hon. Dr. Atkinson, on behalf of the members of the Civil Service Club, presented Mr. H. F. Jones, man with a pair of handsome field glasses in recognition of his services as captain for three years. Mr. Jackman leaves for home next month.

At the annual meeting of the Tientsin Chamber of Commerce the Chairman (Mr. Southcott) in his address, reviewing the work of the Chamber during the past year, referred as follows to the British Post Office question:—As you will see from the correspondence published in the Year Book, your Committee took energetic action (I am glad to say temporarily successful, to prevent the closing of the British Post Office last September. After considerable correspondence and much lobbying the Hongkong Government agreed to keep the Post Office open until 30th September, 1908, on the British Municipal Council guaranteeing the estimated deficit of \$7,500. This I need hardly say, is an unsatisfactory position, and the British Municipal Council are not likely to continue their subsidy for another term. Your Committee have been in communication with the Manchester Chamber, who have represented the matter to the London Chamber and we trust they will be successful in preventing the closing next September. It does not appear that the Hongkong Government is likely to give way on the matter, owing to the expenditure that is laid on the revenues of that colony, and we can only hope that a subsidy will be granted them by the home Government to enable the local Post Office to be kept open. I may perhaps be allowed to say that the rule of the Hongkong Postmaster not to permit current accounts, as is done in other local post offices, appears to be a factor in reducing the receipts. If such facilities were granted we should probably find the office more largely patronised than at present. Before leaving the subject, I should like to express the thanks of the Chamber to the Governor of Hongkong for his courtesy and for the assistance he has rendered us, and also to the local representatives of the Chinese Engineering and Mining Co., Ltd. for all they have done on this behalf. There seems to be a belief in some quarters that because the British Municipal Council have given a guarantee, it is their business to do so at they can to get the matter arranged without a further grant from Tientsin. I would say that the guarantee was given by the British Municipal Council on the distinct understanding that the Chamber should deal energetically with the matter, and you will doubtless instruct your incoming Committee to continue negotiations with this in view.

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint, provisionally, and subject to His Majesty's pleasure, the Hon. Mr. Henry Keswick to be an unofficial member of the Executive Council, during the absence on leave of the Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett, or until further notice.

On March 13th an official dinner was given at Government House to meet Rear Admiral Cooper. The following guests were invited:—Mr. and Mrs. Gok, Miss Sicks, Mr. H. Sicks, Mr. G. Winder, Mr. and Mrs. Muller, Admiral Sir Arthur Moore, Captain Thursby, H.M.S. "King Alfred," Commander and Mrs. Stokes, Commander Dunnecker, H.M.S. "Kent," Commander Campbell, H.M.S. "Bedford," Commander Caperton, U.S.S. "Denver," Captain Yamakuchi, H.I.J.M.S. "Izumi," Captain and Mrs. Vingaen, Lieut. H.M.S. "Asura," General Bratwood, Captain Hart, Sympson, Major Evans, Lieut. Rajput, Mr. E. Fritze von Zsch, Dr. and Mrs. Voratzsch, Dr. and Mrs. Bell, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Humphreys, Mr. R. D. Law, Mr. and Mrs. Brown, Mr. Fletcher. The German Admiral was accompanied by Captain Warmbach, Captain Freiherr von Delwick, Flag Lieutenant Freiherr von Dornberg (three staff officers). Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson, Mr. and Mrs. Sicks, Captain Smith H.M.S. "Monmouth" were unable to attend.

A *Da Li Po* telegram dated Tokyo, March 6th, said:—The dispute between China and Japan concerning the seizure of the "Tatsu Maru" and her cargo has been settled as the result of a conference between Baron Hayashi, Japanese Minister at Peking, and H. E. Yuan Shih-kei. It is officially announced here that by the terms of the settlement, China will compensate warship to fire a salute to the Japanese flag, hoisted at their muzzles, at the place where the "Tatsu Maru" was seized, this salute to be given on the day when the ship is released, and to take place in the presence of the Japanese Consul. China will also pay compensation to the amount of loss actually due to the seizure. China will also punish the officials responsible for the seizure. Japan agrees to the purchase of 100 tons of Chinese ammunition, in order that they may not reach rival belligerent hands.

### PARSEE CHARITY FUNDS.

The annual general meeting of the Parsee Charity Funds was held on March 14th. Mr. H. N. Masdy presided, and there were also present Messrs. S. C. Khan, M. P. Talati, trustees; B. L. Rathwara (Hon. Secretary); and twelve other Parsees representing different firms. The Chairman read the report and statement of accounts, which shows that the expenditure was greater than the income, there being a deficit of about two thousand dollars, due to the fact that more than three thousand dollars have been spent on rebuilding the Parsee Club and buying the new furniture for the premises. The total balance carried forward shows a goodly sum of dollars one thousand eight hundred. There being no questions, the report was adopted unanimously on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. F. S. Chana.

Mr. K. D. Gazdar proposed, and Mr. S. B. Bhatnagar seconded, a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the trustees, and the Secretary, which was carried enthusiastically.



## RUS IN URBE.

(Daily Press, March 16th.)

WHERE in the world does a short evening stroll afford more charm, than at Hongkong just now? People pay pounds and travel miles to visit "beauty spots" that have less to commend them. This is no reference to the peerless views that reward the explorer of the higher levels or the Peak, nor is it an invitation to go further and view the ramifications of our most beautiful harbour, or the comely valleys that lie hidden beyond the Kowloon range. It is simply a reminder of some things we see so often that we are apt to miss their charm, things that may be enjoyed in a stroll that would not tire a yearling child. Say we start from the Hongkong Hotel, walk to the City Hall via the Bank, and back by the southern side of what our American friends would call "the block." One good cigarette, and certainly one cigar, should outlast the trip, and countless future smokes will not outlast the visual memories to be collected in a duly receptive mood.

The mood, it goes without saying, should follow the good dinner, to be eaten, for preference, when it is not a "band night." The Bell of New Yorchester, as somebody once christened the prandial performers, is too distracting for the purpose in view. It makes you eat too fast, for one thing, and the chance is you'll walk too fast, and make a mere "constitutional," an effort at "ekker," of what should be a dreamy saunter through a dream world. A modest bottle, and a liqueur with the coffee, is to be recommended.

The wonderful green of the foliage of the tree at the foot of Ice House Road and Battery Path is an artificial effect due to the electric light, but in conjunction with the arborescent silhouettes beyond, the glimpse of hilltop and houses on the skyline high up, it compels thought of the Tlapallan of Columbus, the Land of Colours, or of the Delectable Land as visualized by Bunyan. Within the last few days there's been a man sitting in a ricscha, smoking cigars, and pretending to paint the Flower Market. As if any artist with an eye for colour would waste time over the massed crudities of Wyndham Street! A Whistlerian nocturne in greens and yellows of the embankment below Battery Path would do more to "popularise" Hongkong than a Carnegie Library or Public Baths. But it would not do us justice, even though a greater than Whistler were to do it.

The enlacement of banyan roots over that ferny embankment is a very wonderful thing. It never loses its spell as a miracle for contemplation. There is an outcropping rock, a sort of natural pulpit, that looks as if it might roll down but for the banyan's embrace. The clasp is as firm, and yet as affectionately graceful, as that of a mother holding her child for its first dip in the sea. The dry fronds of the palm sentinels by the Bank supply the necessary murmur of the wavelets plashing on the beach. Shake off the ash of your cigarette, and continue round the corner, where the eastward bound trams groan and scream as they circumvent the Cricket Club's pavilion, habited now only by some Chinese servant, whose incense sticks under the window make you look for glow worms.

The ball of bright light at the top of the high standard is the centre of a little whirling universe all its own. Big moths and little moths gyrate up there, some like sober planets, constant to their orbits, others erratic like drunken comets, giddy with joy, but constant in their worship as a pious Zoroastrian. Up there in miniature are

eclipses and occultations too, but look—it is not only their relative positions to their sun that affects their colours. One huge moth of sulphur hue, with a body quite a couple of inches long, and wings outspreading four or five, is hampered in his worship of the flame by a dark body of similar size that threatens in every or it to collide with him. By Jove, it is a bat, and his movements appear not dangerously careless but deliberately sinister. We are watching one of the countless tragedies always, day after day, and night after night, taking place in this optimistic world. To the moth it is a blinding ecstasy alternating with a dreadful but (we hope) only vaguely appreciated peril. "Confound you, sir," we imagine him saying, "can't you see I'm very busy with my devotions? You nearly bumped into me that time." To the bat, alas—a coarse-minded materialist—it is a matter of a square meal. The beautiful worshipper is only a course in a necessary repast, a succulent morsel with which to gratify a fleshly lust to fill an aching void. "Confound the brute," he says, "nearly had him that time, but every time he gets into that whiteness up there, my eyesight seems to fail me. Wonder what it is. Must have 'em seen to." Out flies the moth again, the touch of the glass of the arc failing to allay his passion for the inner radiance. He is like a lover, who, after kissing his lady's hand, hungers and thirsts for her lips. Swoop! Comes the sombre and demoniac bat, and this time strikes. The golden angel droops and flutters, straight as gravitation brings him earthwards, and the shadowy death, floating after on almost invisible pinions, retrieves him just as we step forward to render aid, and both are gone.

High on the Peak little panels of yellow indicate where presumably happy people are enjoying post prandial peace or gaiety. The arch above scintillates with its awful air of having done so for ever and for ever, and its ghastly determination to continue doing it when we have followed the moth. A tram, nearly empty, for it is getting late, passes—the conductor counting coppers and making them up into rouleaux—all in a blaze of yellow. An expectant ricscha coolie charges us very much as the bat charged his prey, and his raucous interjections put us to flight.

## HONGKONG UNIVERSITY.

(Daily Press, March 17th.)

Since Hongkong became a Crown Colony of the British Empire more than sixty years ago, its record has been one of steady progress. Its material prosperity has increased, the conditions of life have been improved for the bulk of its inhabitants, and British occupation has become synonymous with a safety of life and security for property unknown in the great Empire of which it once formed a part. Many of the institutions which play such a helpful and educative part in Western lands have been introduced to Hongkong with a generally successful result that justified an advance on the same lines. While much has been done educationally—and it has to be admitted that an enlightened policy in this direction has had most desirable ends—it has long been recognised that more remained to be achieved. The elementary schools and Queen's College do not carry the ambitious youth very far. To qualify for any of the professions it is necessary for the student to go to Europe, and as this involves a considerable expense, many are deterred from entering upon a

career which would place them in a higher position and in which they would doubtless be able to render greater service to their country. Moreover, the sons of Chinese gentlemen who with that newly awakened zeal for Western learning look to Europe with longing, are often precluded by considerations of money and difficulties of living and travel from taking up a course of study which would materially benefit themselves and contribute to the advancement of their native land. The need for a university has been felt for a long time. The educational authorities have advocated the establishment of a university, the commercial community have supported the proposal, and the Government have given the scheme their warm approval. But up till now the scheme has not materialised. Nobody knew where the necessary money was to come from, and there was no Andrew Carnegie to solve the problem for Hongkong. Though the Scotch-American millionaire does not take Hongkong under his patronage, the Colony is not without public spirited citizens. There have been many who have given lavishly to benefit our city. Munificent gifts have been placed before an appreciative populace, especially during the last few decades, and now the more than princely generosity of Mr. Mody and the public spirited co-operation of Mr. A. H. Rennie are to be gratefully noticed in connection with the offer to provide the fund for a Hongkong University. The Government has accepted the offer of these gentlemen and will give the land necessary for the site. The thanks of a grateful community and Government are due to all responsible for such generosity and public spirit, and those who know Mr. RENNIE will readily admit that the completion of the project is practically certain, as anything Mr. RENNIE takes in hand is carried to a successful issue. The building and site being thus assured—the arrangements have yet to be concluded—it only remains for an endowment fund to be raised. And this should not present any great difficulty. Doubtless other local gentlemen will be inspired by such noble examples to give of their sufficiency and emulate not only the gentlemen named but the numerous other benefactors who have helped to contribute to the social needs of the Colony. Were that so, the University would ere long be a fact accomplished and Hongkong would be proud of a centre of learning which would not only be welcomed by its own citizens but afford educational facilities to young men in the neighbouring land not hitherto available. Hongkong would benefit, China would benefit and the influence of the new educational institution would be an important factor in the progress of the Empire with whose interests we are so closely associated. We understand that buildings and plans have been prepared and in a day or two the public may expect to be in possession of the details.

## POLITICAL TENSION IN EUROPE.

(Daily Press, March 18th.)

An instructive instance of the hollowness of the armed truce at present existing on the continent of Europe is exhibited in the unseemly snarling that has taken place over a very simple proposition of Austro-Hungary to build a line of railway across the very difficult piece of country lying between Serajevo, the capital of Bosnia, and Mitrowitz in northern Albania. Already Serajevo is connected by rail with Vienna, and Mitrowitz with Salonika, the most import-



ant port of Macedonia, with a magnificent harbour, so that this line, if once in working order, would, except for local traffic, entirely supersede the present very roundabout and inefficient lines through Hungary and Servia. At the Congress of Berlin, when Turkey after a life and death struggle lay helpless under the heel of Russia, amongst other arrangements to secure the balance of power in Europe, it was settled that Austro-Hungary, to prevent the utter disorganisation of the country, should occupy Bosnia. Bosnia at the period was in a worse condition than Macedonia at present; had no internal centre of union about which a state could be evolved, and the restoration of the little more than nominal rule of Turkey was, owing to the erection of the intervening state of Servia, absolutely impossible. Under the circumstances there was little choice, and the Congress took the only seemingly practical course to restore order, and handed the province over to Austro-Hungary. Events have proved the wisdom of the decision. The Government of the Dual-Monarchy accepted the trust, and Bosnia herself in common with the whole of Europe has had every reason to be satisfied with the result. Bosnia and Herzegovina, instead of being the despair of Europe, have now become one of the most advancing and well-administered countries on the continent. It was of course of great advantage to Austria and Hungary to have the control of Bosnia and Herzegovina placed in their hands, as it gave them direct access to their harbours on the Dalmatian coast hitherto practically isolated, and this led to the complete opening up as soon as possible of the internal communications of the state, which has proved of immense advantage to the entire country, and has assisted Austria much in her establishment of a direct trade with the Orient. The increase of her trade with the Levant, which her possession of Bosnia has brought about, has naturally led to a desire to develop that with the Aegean, which the successful opening of the Bosnian railways to Serajevo has shown to be feasible, should the construction of the lines be practicable from an engineering point of view. Salonika is very much nearer to the Suez Canal than Trieste, and if Salonika could be joined with Serajevo, Vienna and all Germany north and west of Vienna would be brought in much closer contact with the Levant and the whole of southern and eastern Asia. More, it only requires the opening of a comparatively short link between Salonika and Larissa to connect Vienna with Athens and the Piraeus, and the Piraeus is within thirty hours sail of Port Said, so that an alternative and considerably shorter line would be found than the present via Brindisi. To make such a line, the control of the greater part of which would be in her own hands, is a not unworthy subject of Austrian ambition, and one apparently that affords no just ground of offence to the other Powers.

Not unnaturally the scheme met with especial favour in Germany, especially as a good share of the profits would come directly to herself. But Germany's commendation was hardly a recommendation with the other nations whom Germany's policy had estranged; and so it was hardly to be wondered at that Russia should at once have been in the field to oppose, and if possible destroy the new project. Russia has never forgiven Germany her railway projects in Asia Minor, which she chooses to believe had the single object of eventually excluding her from what she fancifully imagines to be her prerogative,—namely the right of sitting astride Europe and Asia;

Russia, too, has a considerable trade along the east of the Balkan Peninsula, and with her usual misconstruction of perspective would fain believe that an interest meant a monopoly, so that any attempt of Austria to seek an outlet on the Aegean was in her eyes flat treason. With more good reason certain folk in England saw or thought they saw in the new project a deep laid scheme to injure British trade in the East by providing readier means than at present exist for exporting central European commodities without reference to England; and some would see in it the ruin of our trade with Servia and other countries in the Balkan Peninsula. It may be that injury may be done to our trade by the greater facilities offered by the new route, but that is hardly sufficient reason for complaining, and certainly none at all for raising obstructions. We, owing to circumstances, have for long enjoyed a lion's share of the European trade with the East, but we were favoured by accidental circumstances which our people were quick to take advantage of. Natural conditions have of late been returning, and our continental neighbours have been equally ready to take advantage of them. This may be a subject for regret, but is certainly not one for complaint. After all, though our proportionate share may diminish, it is hardly likely that in the long run our trade with the countries of the Balkan Peninsula will in actual amount be diminished by the new facilities. As well grumble at the meteorological office because while our rival's ship has passed scatheless, ours, a few hours later passing over the same ground, has been caught in the gale and wrecked. We can see how in the case of others the incessant snarling that has been a marked feature of the last few years is deserving of no sympathy, and has been one of the chief reasons for the prevailing spirit of uneasiness that has been rampant. It is at best inconsistent to encourage it in ourselves.

In consequence of the natural trend of the valleys in the Balkan Peninsula the tendency of the railway lines has been to run from north-east to south-west, and this will be seen on any good route map to be the equally natural trend of trade, which has an equivalent tendency to flow in this direction from Central Europe towards the Levant. The Austrian project is therefore an equally natural attempt to follow the lines of least resistance; and this, however momentarily powerful may be the restraining interests, will in the long run ensure its success, either in its present or an equivalent form. Any trustworthy railway map of Europe will show that whatever may have been the immediate objects of constructing any individual line, in the end the various lines have united along the principal trade routes, and we may be certain that the same general rules will in the future prevail. Russian statesmen have always professed to belittle these considerations, and many of the lines as first laid out under autocratic instructions completely ignored them, with the result that in each case they have had to be supplemented by others more wisely laid out. The course of the Russian lines has thus been directed towards the mouths of the great rivers,—the Dniester, the Dnieper, and the Don,—as being the great ports of shipment for her surplus agricultural products. With the Balkan Peninsula the few lines that exist have been laid out for merely military purposes, while no main line exists leading westwards from the Pruth. This it will be seen was in conformity with the natural trend of the country. Apparently balked

in her efforts to block the Austrian line, Russia now appears as the promoter of one of her own in which she appears in connection with Servia, and now demands, seemingly as an imaginary counterpoise to Austria, a line from the lower Danube through Servia and communicating with the Adriatic. It is easy enough to see that such a line might serve to develop a certain amount of trade from Servia, which at present has to send all her spare products intended for western Europe down to the mouth of the Danube, and thence round Turkey and Greece to the Mediterranean, and, if Servia could get her neighbours to finance such an undertaking, her profit would be great. It is not so easy to see how Russia east of the Pruth could have any commercial interest in such a line, which would only substitute a long and profitless railway journey, for a not much longer sea voyage. The whole is good evidence, however, that the lessons of the past have made no impression on Russia, and that the barbarian instinct of invasion simply for the sake of territory is still as rampant as ever. In fact Europe is at the moment in apparently as restless a condition as in the latter half of the eighteenth century, and equally without any settled plan, and just as ignorant of the causes of her malady. The most curious part of the whole is that the two Western Powers, France and England, who have most to lose by any unsettlement, are in a vain pursuit of peace, while ignorantly intermeddling with everything in which they have no concern, actually doing their best to bring nearer the inevitable.

### THE NEW LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR.

(Daily Press, March 19th.)

The elected representative of the Chamber of Commerce on the Legislative Council, Mr. MURRAY STEWART, takes the place vacated for six months by the Hon. Mr. E. A. HEWETT, but we note from his very clear statements to the nineteen members who met to unanimously elect him, that he does not take with him anything like the opinions of the gentleman whom he succeeds. On the only matter of outstanding public importance with which the Legislature is expected to be likely to deal during his term of office, it seems that his predilection is diametrically opposed to that known to be possessed by his able predecessor. In his capacity as delegate from the Chamber of Commerce, we have no doubt that he will give his constituents the utmost satisfaction in expounding the ascertained views of the Chamber "on purely commercial matters." In the direction of giving "attentive consideration to all legislative proposals affecting the community as a whole," he is unlikely to disappoint either his predecessor or those other members of the community who are in sympathy with the well known views of Mr. HEWETT, for he has in his speech to his constituents frankly admitted that he goes to the legislative chamber with settled convictions on the subject and the Bill affecting the vitality of the Sanitary Board and its administration of sanitary affairs. The nature of those convictions has not left in doubt. The Hon. Mr. HEWETT believed that the powers previously granted to the Sanitary Board had been, so to speak, filched from it. He (and others) believed that it ought to have its full powers restored to it. He disagreed that the only permissible function of the Sanitary Board should be, what Mr. MURRAY STEWART, with his mind biased by his appreciation of



the unique situation of this Colony, is prepared only to grant it, namely, the function of criticism. Mr. MURRAY STEWART believes the officials of this Colony are prepared to welcome enlightened criticism; we do not think we go too far in saying that the Hon. Mr. E. A. HEWETT leads them to be determined to ignore it. There seem to be a few people who take an enlightened interest in public affairs here who regard the Bill referred to as another instance of official disregard of unofficial opinions. They seem to regard the general effect of the findings of the Sanitary Commission as an example of enlightened criticism, and they further seem to think that the general effect of the Bill as presented represents the value in the official mind of that sort of criticism. If this be the form of welcome it is to get—this Bill that Mr. MURRAY STEWART intends to support—they say it will become increasingly difficult to get enlightened publicists to come forward. In effect, they reply to the officials, "perhaps it is right to dissemble your love, but why do you kick us downstairs?" There may be more than one opinion of the importance of retaining popular administration of our Sanitary laws, but Mr. MURRAY STEWART has left us in no doubt as to his own. He is "in favour of maintaining the undivided authority of the Crown over municipal affairs." Messrs. Hewett, Hooper, Humphreys & Co. are men worthy of all credit and praise, so we understand his pronouncement, but downstairs they are to go, so soon as their municipal opinions seem at all inimical to "the undivided authority of the Crown." We are reminded of the fine intolerance of the Royalists before Marston Hill and Naseby, when treason and its concomitant penalties (including the loss of ears, if not of head) lurked in every unorthodox whisper of respect for Parliament or People. The Royalists in all sincerity denounced the Parliamentarians as rebel scoundrels, and would admit no possibility of honest intention on their part, much as Mr. MURRAY STEWART, while "sympathising with those who deplore the lack of it," dismisses all the criticism so far advanced as "based on insufficient knowledge of ascertainable facts." This does seem to us, in view of the Hon. Mr. HEWETT's devoted study and research, a little too much as if the grand-maternal method of abstracting the contents of an eggshell were being somewhat disrespectfully discounted by one of less experience. That he regarded "the colossal work done by that Commission as highly valuable in many respects" scarcely atoned for what had just been said. Taking the speech as a whole, it seems to indicate that the new representative of the Chamber of Commerce will be less of a popular champion than was the Hon. Mr. HEWETT, but against that we may set his explicit promise to "maintain an attitude of outspoken independence." That, to those who prefer more democratic control of purely municipal matters, will not mean so much after his outspoken statement of his pro-official position, but it does at least show the right spirit in one proposing to follow so outspoken and independent a representative as was the Hon. Mr. HEWETT, whose enforced departure at the present juncture is an occasion of general regret.

A meeting was called by the Hon. Mr. Pollock on March 18th to consider the advisability of holding an arts and crafts exhibition, but only a few gentlemen attended and Mr. Pollock decided not to proceed further with the matter.

## POETRY.

(Daily Press, March 20th.)

Lovers of poetry will perhaps forgive us if we venture merely academically to make the heretical suggestion that the power of poetry is largely a matter of mnemonics. We are moved so to do by reading an article in the Literary Supplement of the *Times* of February 18th, on Mr. MEREDITH's poetry. The writer of the article, like most of Mr. MEREDITH's readers, seems to appreciate him more as a novelist than as a poet, though he reflects that in most cases verse is more enduring than prose. Why is that? He suggests that there is "a pleasurable excitement afforded by metre," a "higher mood" for poetry than for prose, and about the more complex method of expression "an atmosphere in which we are less conscious of changed fashions in thought and expression than we inevitably are in prose." That is to say, "there is in poetry an element of strangeness which makes us ready to welcome a certain unlikeness to our ways of speech and our own point of view." This explanation does not seem to us sufficient, and parts of it are even unacceptable. That not inconsiderable body of the public which, without scorning the really musical character of well-chosen language, does not "take kindly to poetry," will be with us in denying the "higher mood" in which poetry is usually written. A man with something to say, with a burning message to deliver, may sit down in a "high mood" to express his noble thoughts, but even if "true ease in writing comes from art, not chance," we can see clearly that the technical difficulties and limitations of the laws of prosody must inevitably check and hinder the outpouring. The necessity of numbering his feet must necessarily tend to hamper his facts. The best prose writers have a good ear for the iambus and trochee, and write easily and uninterruptedly that which when read aloud is as musically fluent as any poetry. Given the apt word in the euphonious phrase, their beautiful ideas may be beautifully expressed without any loss of clarity. Their high mood need not suffer depression, as in the case of the poet who must chop his logic into lengths and his dreams into dactyls. That "element of strangeness" spoken of, which is said to save poetry from the alleged fate of archaic prose, seems to us to be its artificiality. The artificiality of the complexly artificial does not offend us, because we have learned to expect nothing better. Not only the "high mood" of the poet goes, but also his high meaning. Even the *Times* writer speaks of the "intolerable obscurity" of the poet, as in Mr. MEREDITH's lines:

Wherefore their sun in me, or mine,  
Through self-forgottenness divine,  
In them, that song abode mountains.

Not only in analysing some of the poetry of the last century alluded to such miserable obscurities as meaningless jargon, and attributed them to mental degeneracy, Mr. MEREDITH is certainly not a Decadent, however, but a strong, clear-headed observer, and when his lines seem to mean nothing, we know that they were meant to mean something, but that the tricks of the rhyme's trade prevented it from giving the vivid expression he knows so well how to put in prose. We would classify Mr. MEREDITH as a scientific pigeon, and we note that the *Times* writer holds a view not dissimilar, although he protests where we would approve. Mr. MEREDITH is, says this article, a poet of the head rather than of the heart, preaching a gospel of vitality, and nothing else, but it is not, in any case, one we can always be brave enough to listen to; none of us very

often, indeed, and some never; and then we have dreamt of something more human behind the visible veil of a Love which is yet to be the ultimate reading of the hard mysteries of life. But of mere Earth, or mere Brain—the only stuff Meredith would employ—no such figure can be woven. Thousands who have lived by Wordsworth's gift of faith, Arnold's of endurance, Tennyson's of wisdom, Browning's of joy, will turn away from this proffer of strength a one not receivable human sorrow till other gifts have gone before it.

The religions that have conquered the world are not those which have proclaimed strength, but those that have consoled weakness. As we do not intend to be led into comparative criticism, we must now return to the suggestion with which we opened—that the true conclusion to the speculations concerning the persistence of poetry lies chiefly in its mnemonic values. The rhymes, mnemonically helpful, and pleasant to the ear, seem to have no other value as a constituent of good poetry, for doggerel may rhyme perfectly, and the rhymes of true poetry be imperfect. Rhythm seems greater than rhyme, then, and both more natural than metre, which simply acts as a clog on high thinking. Take that last sentence in the foregoing quotation, about the conquering religions. It is a shrewd idea, well expressed, but even a doggerel rendering would give it more permanency. Thus:

Religions that the world enthral  
Are not of those that Strength recall  
But such as do the Weak console.

That triplet, banal though it be, will possibly be remembered where the prose expression (which is more lucid) cannot be recalled. If we were attempting an appreciation or depreciation of Mr. MEREDITH as poet, we would venture the assertion that he will not attain Parnassus because his verses are not easily memorized. The best poetry, in our definition, is that which illuminates an idea already adumbrate in the reader's mind, in words which attach themselves readily to his memory.

True wit is nature to advantage dressed,  
What oft was thought, but ne'er so well expressed.

For "wit" we would say "poetry." One RICHARD JEFFERIES has dressed Nature to advantage in a number of books of beautiful prose, "ne'er so well expressed" even in WORDSWORTH's poetry. WALT WHITMAN dressed Nature to advantage by ignoring the rules of prosody, and so he will never be a great poet, though he was obviously a poet potential, like JEFFERIES. To give this perhaps tedious excursus some local colour, we will suppose that JEFFERIES went for a walk on Sunday round the western side of our island. What would he not have made of it on that glorious day, in the way of a Pageant of Spring? We could imagine him writing of how the horizon was veiled in a heliotrope mist, beneath which on a glassy sea the smaller islands floated like lotus blooms on a pond of Tokyo; of how murmuring rills adown the foliage-feathered slope made faint echoes of the bird-music thrilling through the balmy air; and so forth, and so on. We have too much veneration for JEFFERIES to further burlesque his beautiful word paintings. Those of us who might read him afterwards, on some similar sunny Sabbath, would recognise the beautiful fidelity of his word-painting, and enjoy it; but—and here is the point—we should not remember it. We should need the poet, or in this case the maker of doggerel, to crystallise for us and preserve the memory of a pleasant excursion, with what we call the merely mnemonic devices and aids of prosody.

Horizon veiled in heliotrope,  
Massed foliage dark upon the slope  
That sinks to where the sunlit sea



Lies glassily and peacefully;  
Upon its surface islets press  
Like Lotus-blossoms in laziness.  
The air with bird-made music thrills,  
Its echoes rapid running rills.  
A silent sea-bird in the sky  
Like happiness floats stealthy by.

Those iambic couplets, though somewhat obscuring the picture as JEFFERIES or THOREAU might have painted it for us, serve to catalogue and commemorate, to tick off on each digit as it were, the items of the charming scene that gave the Hongkong pedestrian pleasure. They are not of the high poesy, any more than is the jingle beginning "Thirty days hath September," but they serve the same purpose. And that, our heretical and never-to-be-admitted postulate is, is about all that can be claimed for the most popular poems that be. Most of us like any reasonably decent poem or song about the skylark, because most of us remember the emotions with which we heard that bird of exaltation. We were happy without the skylark's song; the songster did no more than give our happiness a voice.

Ah! the joy of living  
When the days are long,  
When the air is throbbing  
With the skylark's song.

That is simple, and straightforward, and clear as a moorland tarn in harvest-time. It is not poetry because it rhymes; but it is poetry, because it promises to stick. Now listen to Mr. MEREDITH, who, according to the article which started us off on this subject, "is assuredly never more a poet and never more himself than when he interprets for us the song of the lark."

"For singing till his caven fills,  
Tis love of earth that he instils,  
And ever wiring up and up,  
Our valley is his golden cup.  
And he the wine which overflows  
To lift us with him as he goes;  
The woods and brooks, the sheep and kine,  
He is, the hills, the human line,  
The meadows green, the fallows brown,  
The dreams of labour in the town;  
He sings the sap, the quickened veins;  
The wedding song of sun and rains  
He is, the dance of children, thanks  
Of sowers, about of primrose-banks,  
And eye of violets while they breathe;  
All these the circling song will wreath,  
And you shall hear the herb and tree,  
The better heart of men shall see,  
Shall feel celestially, as long  
As you crave nothing save the song."

It may be Philistine to say so, but we do consider the interpretation given in the preceding quatrain more satisfactory. The joy of living—what else does the lark express? "Tis love of earth that he instils." Quite so; that seems very much the same idea less lucidly expressed. It is love of life, and the lark does not "instil" that; he expresses what is already instilled. That is a pleasant simile, however, which compares the mood of bird and man to "the wine which overflows, to lift us with him as he goes." Both bird and man are intoxicated, with the exuberance of their own joy. But now note how the exigencies of prosody lead Mr. MEREDITH into expressions clumsy and halting and ineffective, if not absolutely alien to the theme. We see "the meadows green, the fallows brown," but not being, like the poet, in the "high mood" that must hunt for a rhyme to "brown," the lark's singing does not make us dream "of labour in the town." Later on comes the awkward division of the phrase "thanks of sowers," which in any case is not right. "Hopes of sowers," "thanks of harvesters," would be—only they would neither rhyme nor scan. It is an admirable illustration, that, for serving our purpose, and here we may well leave the reader to follow up the line of thought for himself.

## HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held yesterday at the Board Room. The Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson (president), presided, and there were also present Hon. Mr. A. W. Brewin (Registrar-General), Captain Lyons, Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Mr. Fung Wa Chub, Mr. H. Humphreys, Mr. H. A. W. Slade, Mr. Lau Chupak, and the following officers.—Dr. W. W. Pearce (Medical Officer of Health), Dr. Macfarlane (Assistant Medical Officer of Health) and Mr. G. A. Woodcock, secretary.

### WELCOME TO THE NEW MEMBER.

The PRESIDENT said—Gentlemen, as you are aware, His Excellency the Governor has appointed Mr. H. A. W. Slade to occupy the seat on the Board vacated by the Hon. Mr. Hewett. I take this opportunity of welcoming him as a member of the Board. I think he is not new to the Board as he has sat here before.

### THE AMENDING ORDINANCE.

A letter was read from the Government dated 6th March forwarding copies of the Bill amending the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance 1903. It read as follows: Sir, I am directed to forward for the information of the Board eight copies of the Bill amending the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance 1903, which was read a first time in the Council yesterday, and I shall be glad to receive any remarks which the Board may wish to make on the measure.

Mr. LAU CHUPAK—I have not seen the Bill.

The CLERK—It has not been circulated yet.

Mr. HOOPER—Sir, I would ask looking at the importance of this which not only affects sanitary measures but goes to the whole root of the constitution of the Board, that consideration of the subject be postponed for a time. I may say, speaking for myself and others in the colony who are interested in the question, that the Bill is being criticised by experts and I think information will be available to the members when that criticism is published which will simplify the matter very much when we come to discuss the technical sections of the Bill. I would therefore ask that it be postponed until the next meeting of the Board.

Mr. HUMPHREYS seconded.

The PRESIDENT—It has only been in the hands of members for four days and it is only reasonable that consideration should be postponed. I think it would be preferable to give a special afternoon to this so as not to interfere with the ordinary business.

Mr. HOOPER—Quite so.

This course was agreed to.

### LIMEWASHING OF HOUSES.

Correspondence was submitted relative to the limewashing of houses in Shaueng Sha Po village, Kowloon.

Mr. Shelton Hooper minuted. There seems to be some mistake as to the last time the houses were limewashed. The President says they have not been done for three years. The Medical Officer of Health says in his minute, dated September 13th, 1907, they have been whitewashed once a year for the past three years.

Mr. LAU CHUPAK—General cleansing without limewashing should be sufficient.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—I agree with Mr. Lau for this year.

The limewashing returns for the fortnight ended February 25th showed that in the Eastern district there were 38 houses limewashed, in the Central 111, and in the Western 118.

### BASEMENT BYELAWS.

A minute was submitted by the Medical Officer of Health recommending amendment of the basement by-laws on the ground that as many of the basements were merely ground floors the effect of the present by-laws was too drastic and he suggested certain alterations with a view to making them less oppressive.

### MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The mortality statistics for the week ending 29th February gave the following figures: The death rate in the British and foreign community was 7.9 per 1,000 of the population as against 16.4 in the corresponding week of the previous year. The death rate for the whole Colony was 22.1 as against 18.6 for the same week in 1907. The population of the Colony was estimated at 337,730.

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

### ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A special meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was held on March 17th in the City Hall for the purpose of electing a representative to take the place of the Hon. Mr. Hewett, who will be absent from the colony for six months. The Hon. Mr. H. Keswick presided and there were also present Messrs. D. R. Law, G. H. Madhura, A. Fuchs, H. E. Tomkins, H. E. R. Hunter, G. Friesland, E. Shelton (members of committee), G. C. Moxon, E. H. Hinds, J. W. C. Bonnar, Ho Fook, Murray Stewart, H. W. Locker, A. S. Cousland, J. S. Gubbay, H. P. White, D. W. Craddock, A. B. Attie, and Captain Clarke.

The CHAIRMAN opened the proceedings by reading the letter in which it was stated that His Excellency the Governor had been pleased to grant the Hon. Mr. Hewett leave of absence and inquiring whom the committee recommended for the vacant seat. On receiving that letter the committee discussed the question and decided to call a meeting in terms of the notice just read. The notice also said that nominations must be in by a certain time. There had been only one nomination handed in to the secretary and that was the nomination of Mr. Murray Stewart, proposed by the speaker and seconded by Mr. Law. In putting forward Mr. Murray Stewart as the representative of the Chamber, with the approval of His Excellency the Governor, it was quite unnecessary for him to make a long speech. Mr. Murray Stewart was perfectly well known to all of them and he was perfectly certain, as he hoped they would be, that Mr. Murray Stewart they would have a representative who would bring to bear great industry in the discharge of his duties and who would also command great respect. He would put forward the views of the Chamber absolutely fearlessly. With these few words he would propose that the Chamber suggest to His Excellency the Governor that the name of Mr. Murray Stewart replace that of Mr. Hewett as their representative on the Legislative Council.

Mr. D. R. Law seconded.

The CHAIRMAN said that before putting the resolution to the meeting members would perhaps like to hear Mr. Murray Stewart.

Mr. MURRAY STEWART said that in accepting the invitation of the Committee to stand for election that day he did not lightly estimate the responsibility attaching to the temporary occupation of the seat in the Legislative Council. That responsibility assumed in his eyes a double aspect. It involved the exposition of the views of the Chamber on purely commercial matters as these were to be focussed at the deliberations of their committee. It also involved the attentive consideration of all legislative proposals affecting in any way the interests of the community as a whole. They wanted, he took it, a delegate, but they did not want a mere delegate. They distinguished him from that by the title of representative. From the fact that the committee had put no question regarding his views on current topics he took it that they, and he hoped those present, believed in having a free and not a fettered man in the position. The committee assumed that he understood and would endeavour to perform the duties of the Chamber's delegate. For the rest, presumably they had confidence that he could usefully perform the functions of a critic (applause). It was not blind confidence that they reposed in him. He had not hidden his opinions. They knew his views on many matters and they could judge fairly well what his attitude would be on many others. They knew broadly the lines he was likely to take up. Some of them might not. Some of them might want to know. Clearly it was only right that every member should. Home folk were conveniently ticked Tory, Liberal, or Socialist, but here unless they happened to know a man it was not so easy to estimate his opinions. He would risk the attempt to indicate his attitude in a sentence. His mind derived its bias in local matters involving practical considerations from reflections arising out of the unique situation of this colony. He was biased for instance in favour of maintaining the undivided



authority of the Crown over our municipal affairs. He claimed to have an open mind on many topics but as regarded that he had a settled conviction. It had always appeared to him that the special circumstances of our environment supplied quite a number of good and sufficient reasons against experimenting in methods of popular government. On the other hand an older faith in those democratic principles which he believed to be inapplicable here kept his mind alive to the value of enlightened criticism of the official acts of public men and he sympathised with those who deplored the lack of it. There was no lack of other kinds of criticism. Criticism based on insufficient knowledge of ascertainable facts was not uncommon and unfortunately they were only too familiar with unfairness in attacks upon our public servants. With this they could benevolently dispense but they all needed and they all wanted criticism having truth for its objective and urbanity for its note, and unless he was much mistaken the responsible officers of the Government at all times welcomed it. As far as could be foreseen at present the probability was that during the period of Mr. Hewett's absence opportunities for criticism would chiefly arise in connection with the passage of that Bill at present before the Council. Though as he had indicated he found himself in sympathy with the main principles of that Bill, he would support whatever amendments appeared to him to be necessary in order to render effective the recommendations of the Sanitary Commission which after hearing debated he approved. He regarded the colossal work done by that Commission as highly valuable in many respects, particularly in respect of the check administered to corrupting influences. He was not one of those, if there were any, who imagined that the sanitary department of this or any other town or colony was unsuceptible to improvement. He would support whenever possible the views of the unofficial members of the Sanitary Board but beyond that he would hope that when the present bill was passed it would be the last of its kind for many a day. It seemed to him that their main concern with the Sanitary and Building Ordinances was that they should get a rest from new ones. He believed it to be the case that harm was done to the prosperity of the colony by uncertainty as to the conditions under which property was held. Their great need was for a sound law to be honestly administered for a long period, and their best hope was that when the present bill passed into law it would supply that need. He had thus lightly touched upon the only question which could be said to be a burning one at the present moment. On the principle of not crossing bridges before they came to them he had omitted mention of subjects that might possibly arise, but should difficult questions crop up he would devote himself to the study of them. He was not so inexperienced as to suppose he could please everybody. He would have to be several sorts of different kinds of man to do that. He did not even aspire to fulfil the hopes of each of the several parties in their little state but if they elected him he dared to say that he would not disappoint them all. He could promise them that in any criticism of the constituted authority which he might be called upon to make he should try to avoid rancour. At the same time it would be his endeavour to maintain an attitude of outspoken independence (applause). When the Government appeared to him to be wrong he would say so and when he thought that they were right he would also say so. This latter perhaps required the more courage of the two. In any case if they elected him he should draw courage from their confidence and a double supply on occasions when he could ascertain that the collective wisdom of their committee endorsed the views he advocated; when he could believe that the members also agreed; when he could feel that he had the most influential association in the colony in a solid body at his back. Up till now he had not asked any member for his vote. He had made up his mind that even if he were opposed he would not canvas. This resolution did not arise out of any false pride but out of the desire to do as he would be done by. He preferred to attend an election himself with his mind open and his will free. He

liked to preserve his liberty of choice up to the last moment of the time appointed. Now the time had come and now he would make bold to ask them one and all for their vote (applause).

The motion was put, and carried unanimously. This concluded the meeting.

### HONGKONG UNIVERSITY.

A meeting of the Committee convened by H. E. the Governor to consider the project of establishing a University for Hongkong was held at Government House on March 18th. The following gentlemen were present:—The Bishop of Victoria, Hon. Mr. May, C.M.G., Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, C.M.G., Hon. Mr. A. Thomson, Hon. Mr. Pollock, Sir Paul Chater, Hon. Mr. Chatham, C.M.G., Hon. Mr. Brewin, Dr. Atkinson, Dr. J. C. Thomson, Mr. A. Rennie, Dr. Bateson Wright, Dr. Jordan, Mr. Turner, Mr. Bowley, Mr. Murray Stewart.

Hon. Mr. Keewick was unavoidably absent and Mr. Mody deferred attendance till the next meeting.

HIS EXCELLENCY spoke as follows:—Gentlemen:—I have asked you to meet me here to-day in order to announce to you that a large sum of money has been offered with the object of building a University in Hongkong. Some time ago Mr. Rennie called upon me and informed me that Mr. Mody had read with great interest some references I had made in speeches at various prize distributions to the day which I hoped might not be far distant when Hongkong would have a University and that he (Mr. Mody) desired to place the magnificent sum of \$150,000 at my disposal for this object, but he desired that the matter should not for the present be divulged. I will ask Mr. Rennie to confirm these statements. He has consented to be a member of this Committee, but did not desire to attend to-day. My first impression was that it was essential that the Hongkong College of Medicine should be amalgamated with any scheme for a University and should not exist as it were as a rival. This would involve their abandoning the site they had obtained for their College buildings at Taiping-shan, which is unsuitable and does not offer sufficient space for the larger scheme, and giving up the building plans which they had already finally decided upon, and adopting a scheme of building which should be part of, or capable of expansion into the larger project. The Court of the College has been in consultation with Mr. Rennie and myself for some time past and they have concurred in the proposals subject to certain conditions. But they have some misgivings as to the vital question of the cost of maintaining the University when it has been erected. They rightly feel that they have for years past been labouring to attain an object which at last they find to be on the verge of attainment, and they naturally do not wish to jeopardise the results of their labours by being associated with a scheme which does not offer an equal assurance of success. In other words the College of Medicine has sufficient money for the buildings it require and sufficient funds, and promises of help, to enable it to at once utilise these buildings to the full when erected. Has the projected University any similar assurance? This brings me to the position of the Government towards this project and I wish to make that position absolutely clear. I am ready to recommend to the Government the grant of a site which is considered by all to be fully adequate and well adapted for the purpose. But further than this the Government cannot in present circumstances go. The present and prospective liabilities which the Government has to face are such as to render it impossible for me to hold out hopes that any considerable grant for the maintenance of the University can be undertaken by Government. Nor in such circumstances could it be right for me in the position I hold to encourage such a project if there should be any fear that the onus of maintenance would eventually, in spite of what I have said, fall upon the Government. I feel personally very optimistic about the success of the project, and I am enthusiastically anxious to see it take shape. I believe that if we can establish a University here which will offer equal and better facilities than Tokyo, we shall attract here a large number of wealthy

Chinese students who at present go to Japan, or to America, England and the Continent of Europe. These men will be able to pay the full expenses of their College course, and the University will derive the main portion of its income from the fees they pay. But there will be a period of difficulty, a period in which the expenses will be great and the receipts small before the University is fully established. I feel therefore that personal optimism and personal enthusiasm are factors which should be eliminated in dealing with this project, and that we should approach it in a businesslike way, and before we embark upon it we should ascertain as nearly as possible what the cost of maintenance will be, and what funds we have or are likely to have to meet that cost. When we have actual estimates before us, it will be for us to say how far it is judicious for us to embark on the building programme. Mr. Rennie, acting on behalf of Mr. Mody, has assured me in the presence of the Court of the College of Medicine that the donor is willing to build only a portion of the buildings required and to put the remainder of his generous gift into an endowment fund, if that should be considered the wiser and more prudent course.

I propose then, gentlemen, to appoint a Sub-Committee to draw up such estimates as may enable us to approach this subject with more precise data than we at present possess. The terms of reference, viz. the points upon which I will ask them to report are as follows: Having consulted the donor as to the exact object he has in view, the Sub-Committee will report on the following points:—

(a) Assuming that in the first instance the schools embraced by the University are limited to a School of Medicine and a School of Engineering, what is the minimum adequate staff required for each, and what would be its annual cost? To what extent could local assistance be counted on to assist the professional staff in the early years of the University and until it began to earn an income by fees of students? (b) Assuming that a School of Law were added later, and that these three Schools form, so far as our present horizon extends, the full scope of the University, what buildings would it be advisable to undertake at once, with the funds at present in sight, and what sum would it be necessary and advisable to set aside for maintenance or endowment, looking to the conclusions arrived at under (a)?

The gentlemen whom I propose to ask to advise us on these points are specially qualified to decide on the staff and buildings, and general cost of maintenance of Schools of Medicine, Engineering and Law, and also to give us rough estimates of the cost of the buildings required. When we have the results of their deliberations before us, we shall be in a better position to decide how far we can embark upon this project, and what form our immediate action should take. As regards the first of the two questions, which I propose to refer to the Committee,—what staff is required and what its cost will be—there is nothing to interfere with an immediate reply. But as regards the second—how much money it is safe to spend on buildings and how much should be devoted to maintenance so as to ensure the immediate and practical utility of the scheme,—it is clear that the Sub-Committee's report will entirely depend upon the amount of money available. I feel confident that the entire community will recognise the importance of this project. It will place Hongkong in a unique position in the Far East. It will no doubt attract to this Colony the sons of wealthy and influential Chinese gentlemen and it will have far-reaching effects upon the prestige and influence of Great Britain throughout the Chinese Empire. It will, I think, be the most important step taken in the recent history of this Colony. I take therefore this opportunity of inviting those gentlemen whether European or Chinese whose interests are bound up in this Colony, or who desire to see British influence extended in the Far East, or who would welcome a project which would assist the friendly Empire to thus obtain the Western knowledge which so many of her sons are now seeking and can only obtain at great cost, and by exile from their country, to come forward and support Mr. Mody in his munificent donation, and enable us to give



effect to his generous effort, by subscribing a sum adequate to carry out the scheme in its entirety. To do the thing well, and provide a fully adequate endowment even for the modest beginning which I purpose, a sum of probably not far short of \$1,000,000 or a yearly income of \$60,000 would be required. By whatever amount we fall short of the total required, by a proportionate amount must we curtail the scope of the proposed university. It is, I am aware, not a well chosen time at which to make an appeal for large funds, but it is unavoidable, for the gift which I have announced compels us to act at once and for my part I think it is singularly fortunate that it came in time to enable us to incorporate the College of Medicine in the project before it had become too late to do so. A further opportunity for making a renewed appeal may arise when the buildings are approaching completion a year or two hence. I am not disposed, gentlemen, to embark on a scheme whose success is problematical, and if I were I am sure that no "wild cat" project would find acceptance with you whom I have asked to consider this scheme. I propose to go no further than can be economically and financially justified when we have the report of the sub-committee before us. I will now propose two resolutions and ask the committee to record their votes upon them. I suggest that we shall adjourn without any further proceedings on this occasion unless any gentleman should record a dissentient vote and desire to express his reasons for it to the committee or should take exception to any statement I have made. I propose that we shall assemble for a full discussion on the data and recommendations supplied to us by the Sub-Committee at a later date as soon as I have received its report and when the results of its appeal on behalf of the endowment fund are known. I trust that every one here present will do his utmost to ensure the success of that appeal. The resolutions I put before the committee are as follows:—(1) That this committee desires to record its appreciation of the generosity and public spirit which has prompted the offer made by Mr. H. N. Mody. (2) That a Sub-Committee be appointed to report in accordance with the terms of reference proposed." I will read again the terms of reference I suggest and I shall be glad if any member of the committee will suggest any alteration or addition which he desires to see made.

The resolutions were carried unanimously.

HIS EXCELLENCY then said:—

Now that the two resolutions have been passed by the committee I will ask the following gentlemen if they will be kind enough to work on the Sub-Committee. You will see that each of the proposed schools of the university is especially represented in order that we may have full and expert information on the requirements of each: Hon. Dr. Atkinson, Hon. Mr. Pollock, Hon. Mr. Chatham, Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, Dr. Wright, Dr. Thomson, Mr. Bowley and Mr. Turner, and I will ask Sir Paul Chater, than whom no one has a deeper interest in the welfare of the colony, as a clear headed business man, if he will be so kind as to preside.

The gentlemen named signified their consent to serve on the Sub-Committee.

Mr. Mody on behalf of Mr. Mody, confirmed the statements made.

After some general discussion the Committee adjourned.

#### DEATH OF CONSUL-GENERAL ROMANO.

The doyen of the consular corps in Hongkong, Mr. Agostinho Gilberme Romano, Consul General for Portugal and Consul for Brazil, died on March 18th at 10.30 p.m. Deceased, who was in his 71th year, having been born at Macao in June 1837, had become very feeble of late, and when he was attacked by a chill his vitality was too impaired to withstand it. Pneumonia supervened and it was soon evident that there was little hope of his recovery though he rallied a little yesterday. He died, as stated, last night.

Mr. Romano spent his early years in Macao where he was educated at the Royal College and Seminary of St. Joseph. He took up a

commercial career and became head of the firm of J. J. Remedios and Company. It is interesting to note that his wife was a daughter of Mr. Remedios. He was a Privy Councillor of Portugal and a Gentleman of the King's Household. He was a Fellow of the Geographical Society of Lisbon. Among his honours were: Knight Commander of Order Lady Conception of Portugal, Knight Commander Order Carlos III. and Isabella Catholice, of Spain, and Companion of Lady Conception and Jesus Christ of Portugal.

The deceased naturally held a high position in the Portuguese community and was immensely popular and highly respected. He is survived by his widow.

#### SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 16th March.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR F. PIGGOTT)  
AND MR. J. ORANGE AS ASSESSOR.

##### A BIG CLAIM.

The action in which Lau Yeong Wood and Lam Choy sued the Standard Oil Company of New York for \$70,000 alleged to be due for work done and material supplied on defendants' premises at Lai-chikok commenced the second week of its hearing. Mr. M. Slade, instructed by Mr. Hastings, of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings, appeared for the plaintiffs and the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. Atkinson, from the office of Messrs. Deacon Looker and Deacon, appeared for the defendants.

Mr. Pollock, who opened his statement for the defence on Friday, continued it on Saturday, concluded it on Monday morning, and called evidence for the defence.

The first witness was Mr. Thomas, architect in the office of the late Mr. Manby who gave evidence as to superintending the works at Lai-chikok, and afterwards, being dissatisfied with the progress of the undertaking, ordered the work to be taken out of the contractors' hands.

The hearing was again adjourned.

Thursday 19th March

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT  
(CHIEF JUSTICE).

##### ATTEMPTED ARMED ROBBERY.

Three Chinese named Yan Sing King, Ip Yan Sang, and Lai Tak, were arraigned on a charge of attempted armed robbery in the waters of the Colony on February 9th. The pleaded not guilty. The Attorney-General (Hon. Mr. Rees Davies,) instructed by Mr. Denny, prosecuted and the following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. W. E. Clarke, J. J. H. Moller, J. R. Bertson, H. J. Colahan, J. G. Muir, J. Clelland, and H. L. Harron.

The Attorney-General, in outlining the case for the prosecution said that on February 9th, about 9.15 p.m., the three men with another, not yet in custody, boarded a fishing junk lying in the bay at Kowloon. The owner of the junk, his wife, two children and his mother-in-law, slept under the hood of the junk, and, hearing a noise made by the intruders, they woke up. The owner called out "what is the matter" and one of the defendants replied that they had come to search for opium. The door of the junk was opened and the men entered. The second defendant demanded money from the wife and when she replied that she had none he cut her with a military bayonet. Then he attacked the husband, but the latter offered a stout resistance and in struggle he succeeded in snatching the bayonet from his antagonist. The three men then made off and the husband and a fisherman from a neighbouring junk gave chase. The men went in the direction of the railway and an Indian constable caught one, the second defendant, who was taken to the boat where he was recognised by the inmates. The owner also handed the bayonet over to the constable. The defendant was taken to the Police Station where he gave information which led to the arrest of

the other two. The junk which was boarded was lying near the shore and when the men jumped off her they alighted in the mud. The first accused was covered with mud and the other two when arrested showed that their feet had been recently washed but their legs bore traces of the mud, while the second accused had blood on the palms of his hands.

Evidence was called and at the close the jury returned a verdict of guilty.

The first and third defendants were each sentenced to three years' imprisonment, and the second to five years.

##### HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

Leung Kwan was convicted of highway robbery and sentenced to three years' imprisonment. With another Chinese he attacked an Indian watchman at midnight one day last month in Des Voeux Road by throwing pepper in his eyes and knocking him down. The Indian, however, resisted and a European coming on the scene, the prisoner was captured, but his companion escaped.

#### THE HONGKONG VOLUNTEER RESERVE ASSOCIATION.

The report and statement of accounts to be presented at the third annual general meeting of the members of the Hongkong Volunteer Reserve Association to be held at the City Hall on 27th March, states:

On 1st January, 1907, the number of members on the roll was 251; there were two deaths and 37 resignations during the year, while 16 new members were enrolled. On 31st December there were 228 members on the roll, of whom 216 were present in the Colony. The average of the numbers found in the Colony during 1907 was 206. The number of members present in the Colony throughout the year who did not shoot was 191. As a figure of merit 95 members attended 700 shoots for an average of 45 out of a possible 70. The Governor's Cup for 1907, presented by His Excellency the late Governor, Sir Matthew Nathan, K.C.M.G., for the three best scores at the 200 yards and 500 yards range, was won by Mr. A. Jenkins, with the aggregate score of 410 out of a possible 420. As this gentleman received no handicap this will be acknowledged to be a very fine performance. The following are the monthly winners:—

|                      |                                     |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| March, 200 yards,    | A. Moir ... .. 62 + 8 = 70          |
| April, 500 yards,    | E. S. Carruthers ... .. 61 + 9 = 70 |
| May, 200 yards,      | E. S. Carruthers ... .. 63 + 6 = 69 |
| June, 500 yards,     | A. Jenkins ... .. 70 scr. = 70      |
| July, 200 yards,     | E. W. Terrey ... .. 58 + 12 = 70    |
| August, 500 yards,   | A. Jenkins ... .. 67 scr. = 67      |
| October, 200 yards,  | Dr. Evan Jones ... .. 63 + 6 = 69   |
| November, 500 yards, | A. Jenkins ... .. 69 scr. = 9       |
| December, 200 yards, | A. Jenkins ... .. 67 scr. = 67      |
| January, 500 yards,  | A. Jenkins ... .. 69 scr. = 69      |
| February, 200 yards, | A. Jenkins ... .. 67 scr. = 67      |
| March, 500 yards,    | E. S. Carruthers ... .. 66 + 4 = 70 |

The cup presented by Sir Paul Chater, Kt., C.M.G., to the competitor making the second best score was won by Mr. A. Moir. This competition was shut for on 44 separate dates during the year, and the total number of entries was 1072.

Berkeley Cup—Sir H. S. Berkeley, K.C., presented a cup for competition at 600 yards range. The competition is still in progress and will be completed in April.

Medhurst Cup—Mr. G. H. Medhurst presented a very handsome cup for competition under conditions to be decided by the committee, who allotted it to be shot for under conditions similar to those of the "China Mail" Cup last year, at 200 yards range at disappearing targets on days to be selected. There have been so far only opportunities for two week-end shoots in this competition.

Douglas Cup—Mr. H. P. White presented a cup to be called the "Douglas Cup" for



competition at 800 yards range, and this is in progress monthly at the Peak Range.

"China Mail" Cup.—The undecided tie between Messrs. P. P. J. Wadehouse, A. W. J. Watt and J. H. Pidgeon left over from last year was shot off in April when Mr. A. W. J. Watt was declared winner with eight hits out of ten shots.

Until and including the month of September trophies were presented by the Association to the members making the three highest scores in each cup competition during each month, but owing to want of funds and to the small numbers competing it was decided by the Committee to present a spoon to the winners only for the remainder of the year.

Pool.—Pool competitions were held in connection with each cup shoot.

China United Service Rifle Association.—At the annual meeting held in April, Mr. A. Jenkins secured the 50 yards championship with the highest possible score of 35.

Interport Challenge Shield.—Messrs. J. H. Pidgeon, A. Jenkins, and J. C. G. were selected to represent the Association in the interport team match held in October, and were placed 3rd, 5th and 9th.

White Horse Trophy.—The match—between the Hongkong Volunteer Corps and the Association for the trophy presented by Mr. Mackie of Lagavulin, Scotland, was decided on the 21st December. The Association team was successful in winning the trophy for this, the first year, with the score of 831 against 824 scored by the Volunteer team. Mr. W. G. Stackwood headed the winning side with an aggregate score of 89.

Other Matches.—Friendly matches were shot off against H.M.S. *Waterwitch*, U.S.S. *Cincinnati* and H.K. Volunteer Troop, when the Association was victorious. The team had, however, to own to defeat in June last by the H.K. Volunteer Corps by a margin of 15 points out of 674 made by the Volunteers.

New Competitions for 1908.—The Hon. Mr. F. H. May, C.M.G., has presented three cups for competition in the new year in classes A, B and C, according to handicaps. Mr. G. H. Medhurst has presented three handsome cups for competition during the year. The conditions have not yet been decided upon.

Peak Range.—The 800 yards firing point at the Peak Range was opened on the 21st September, when His Excellency the Governor, Sir Frederick Lugard, K.C.M.G., honoured the Association by firing the first shot. Lady Lugard also graced the ceremony with her presence. The completion of this firing point fills a want long felt by members, and it is hoped that more advantage will be taken of the opportunity thus presented for long range shooting than so far has been the case.

The meeting must elect, in accordance with rule 9, a Committee consisting of a Chairman, a Secretary, who will also act as Treasurer, and eight other members. Members who have served during the past year are eligible for election but Mr. W. H. Trenchard Davis has resigned and Mr. F. Maitland is going away for long leave and does not seek re-election. His Excellency the Governor has sought the sanction of the Secretary of State to a grant to enable the Association to employ a paid Secretary. That sanction has not yet been received; it will be necessary, therefore, to proceed to the election of an Honorary Secretary, as Mr. E. S. Carruthers is unable to continue to perform the duties of that office. The grant, if sanctioned, will not be continued beyond the current year unless the present strength of the Association is maintained, and there has been in His Excellency's opinion, an adequate attendance of members at the range during the year.

H. S. BERKELEY.

Chairman.

In view of the increased number of disputes between Christian converts and the masses in the various provinces H.E. Yuan Shih-k'ai, President of the Waiwupu, proposes to establish a Chiao Wu Chü, or Bureau of Missionary Affairs, which will be charged with the settlement of all missionary questions. A memorial will shortly be presented to the Throne on the subject.

## COMPANIES.

### H. PRICE AND COMPANY.

A meeting of the shareholders in this Company was held on March 18th at the office in Queen's Road. Mr. G. C. Moxon presided and there were present Messrs. J. Scott Harrison, A. Rumjahn (directors), A. E. Robinson (manager), G. T. Lloyd, E. Williams representing A. R. Lowe, and Ellis Kadoorie.

The SECRETARY having read the notice convening the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen, The report and accounts having been in your hands for some days past I propose to follow the usual custom to take them as read. As you are aware the Company commenced business on the 1st April last year but was not incorporated until the 28th June. The profit made during that interval was 4,657.47 as shown in the profit and loss account. A question has arisen as to the legality of utilising this sum for dividend purposes. To meet this doubt it is proposed to set aside the sum of \$5,000 as a special reserve. After writing off all apparent bad debts your directors have considered it advisable to make a further provision of \$2000 as a reserve for bad and doubtful debts and to pay a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent per annum. The stock has been taken and valued by Messrs. Lowe and Bingham with the assistance of our staff. The Company has been doing an increased business since its formation and the prospects are encouraging. We represent a great number of the largest distilling, brewing and wine growing companies in England and the Continent and having a big turnover are enabled to sell at prices that induce the support of the public. We have entered into special arrangements with the Philippine Company to handle their well known "Commercial" cigars and shall be in a position to quote exceptionally low prices. As it is absolutely necessary that cigars should be presented to the public in the very best of condition, we are installing here a drying room specially constructed for the storage of cigars. Before moving the adoption of the report and statement of accounts for the year 1907, I shall be pleased to answer any question that may be put to me to the best of my ability.

There being no question, the report was adopted on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. LLOYD.

The CHAIRMAN—Dividend warrants are now ready, gentlemen, and can be had on application. Thank you for your attendance.

### ANGLO-GERMAN BREWERY CO., LD.

The annual meeting of this company was held at Shanghai on March 11th. Mr. A. McLeod (Chairman) said:—Gentlemen, The report and accounts of the company for the year ending December 31, 1907, having been in your hands for some days, I will ask you to permit us to take them as read. You will see from the accounts that the result of the year's working, including the balance of \$9,666 brought forward from 1906, is the transfer of \$50,391.01 to the credit of profit and loss account equal to a fraction less than 12 per cent on our capital, which in a year of depression and financial stringency such as has existed in the China trade during 1907 you will, I trust, consider fairly satisfactory. But for these adverse circumstances our business would, we believe, have largely increased during the year; as it is, we have held our own and are able to pay the same dividend as in 1906, namely 7 per cent. The brewery has been worked in a very satisfactory manner, and economy combined with efficiency under our capable brewing master has resulted in a satisfactory improvement in the quality of different descriptions of beer we brew, including a new kind called "Gold Export" which has become exceedingly popular and meets with a ready sale, being a really first-class beer. The larger accommodation we now have in the brewery cellars not only enables us to store large quantities, but also all the beer thoroughly to mature. This point is a matter of very great importance, not only for cask but especially for bottled beer. From the accounts you will notice we have an available balance of \$50,391.01,

which the directors recommend should be utilized first, to write off for depreciation on casks, machinery and buildings the considerable amount of \$17,743.00, the policy of writing down the value of our assets being one that strongly commends itself to the Board; second, to the payment of a dividend of 7 per cent, on our share capital absorbing \$31,087.01, and third, carry forward to new account \$1,471.01. Before proposing that the report and accounts as presented be approved and passed, I will endeavour to reply to any questions shareholders may desire to ask.

The usual resolutions were then adopted.

### THE SOY-CHEE COTTON SPINNING COMPANY.

The thirtieth ordinary general meeting of this company was held at the offices of Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co., Shanghai on March 10.

The Chair was occupied by Mr. Mittag (Chairman), who said:—The report and accounts with regard to the working of our mill during 1907 have been in your hands for some time, and with your permission I will dispense with the formality of reading them. As you will have seen, we began the year with a balance at credit of profit and loss account of Taels 5,663.40, and now carry forward Taels 26,129.27 only; the working, after deduction of renewals, interest, etc., showing a loss of Taels 24,534.13. Your directors greatly regret the unsatisfactory results attained during the year under review. As you are no doubt aware the year has been one of deplorable depression all round, and cotton spinning in the East has suffered proportionately. It has, in fact, been the worst year experienced for some considerable time, the unsatisfactory position being mainly attributable to the following adverse circumstances: The consumption in the River ports was abnormally small no doubt as a result of the failure of the crops in 1908 and the consequent famine, the effects of which are still being felt severely along the whole Yangtze Valley. Also formerly a very brisk trade in cotton goods, woven from our spinnings, was done with Manchuria. But since the Japanese have obtained the predominating influence in that province, this has been almost entirely closed to us. Furthermore, the high rate of exchange ruling at the beginning of the year was very much in favour of Japanese and Indian spinnings, and in October, when exchange dropped, the stocks of Indian yarns were so enormous, that local spinnings were almost out of the market. The new cotton crop for some time looked exceedingly bad, and though it rallied a little, the fibre was very lacking in strength. Owing to the unsatisfactory position of the yarn market throughout the year, several of our chief customers had to suspend payment, and we were obliged to re-sell our production with a heavy loss at a time when godowns were filled to overflowing, and buyers could only be tempted by substantial concessions. Owing to the entire absence of demand, we had to carry, during the entire year, a stock ranging from 4000—5000 bales. In view of the very uncertain position of the trade at the season, your directors did not feel justified in buying cotton to a large extent but, as things turned out, prices rose so steadily, that it was impossible to cover our requirements of raw material at profitable rates, and it was decided to curtail production, which naturally means a loss to the mill. Further, during the summer months when native hands work slowly on account of the great heat in the mill buildings, your directors deemed it advisable to close the mill altogether, and take that opportunity of thoroughly overhauling and cleaning the machinery and boilers. This was done and they are now in first-rate working order. Considering all these adverse circumstances, and the fact that during the year under review the mill has been working only eight months, whilst permanent charges and heavy interest have to be met for the full twelve months, you will, I feel sure, take a less gloomy view of the figures we have placed before you. Before proceeding to the passing of the report and accounts, I shall be pleased to answer any questions that shareholders may wish to put to me.

There being no questions, the following resolutions were put and unanimously carried:—



Proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Mr. Woo Saw-chin That the report and accounts as presented be passed.

Proposed by Mr. Zickermann and seconded by Mr. Hoettler: That Mr. Woo Saw chin be re-elected a director.

Proposed by Mr. Woo Saw-chin and seconded by Mr. Hoettler: That Mr. Ho Hsien-chuen be re-elected a director of the Company.

Proposed by Mr. Mittag and seconded by Mr. Zickermann. That Mr. E. G. Frecke be re-elected auditor of the Company for the current year.

This concluded the business of the meeting, but before separating the Chairman expressed a hope that at the next annual meeting he would be able to announce more satisfactory results. Things had been bad in Shanghai lately, but he hoped that there would soon be a change for the better.

### CHINESE MARRIAGE BARGAINS.

An interesting story of Chinese feminine duplicity was related before Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz at the Magistracy on March 16th. Inspector Gourlay charged a young Chinese woman with obtaining \$20 by false pretences from a hawker whom she, it was alleged, had promised to marry. It appears that negotiations had been opened between defendant and the complainant through a go-between. The woman was willing but demanded \$50. The hawker explained that he was a poor man and could not pay that amount at once. He promised however to pay a portion of the bargain money on the 17th February. Accordingly he gave her \$20 on that date and intimated at the same time that March 4th would be a good day for the wedding. She appeared to approve of the proposal and on March 3rd he called at the house and through the go-between reminded the girl that next day was her wedding day. She replied that that day would not suit her and wished the event postponed till March 12th. The man consented and returned home. When the 12th arrived there came no bride and when he sent for her she refused to come. Then he asked for the return of his money and she denied ever having received any from him. The disappointed lover then put the matter into the hands of the police, to whom she not only denied having received the money but also declared that she was married already. The police accordingly charged her with obtaining money by false pretences as she had promised to marry the hawker knowing she could not do so. To prove her statement to the satisfaction of the magistrate she called the man, a shopkeeper, whom she said was her husband. He however, admitted that his *kil fat* was in the country and that the defendant was only his sweetheart. His Worship, in these circumstances, would not convict the defendant of false pretences, and discharged her, pointing out that the complainant's remedy was to sue her for debt.

### KULANGSU (AMOY) MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held at the Board Room on the 24th February 1908.

Present:—Messrs. W. H. Wallace (Chairman), C. A. V. Bowra, A. F. Gardiner, S. Okuyama, W. Wilson and the Secretary.

1 The minutes of the last meeting are read, and confirmed.

2 General routine business is transacted.

3 The Superintendent of Police reports the following cases have been heard in the Mixed Court since the last meeting:—

#### SUMMONSES.

Allowing pigs to stray 1, Contempt of Court 3, Throwing rubbish into the public drain 1, Debt 3.

#### SUMMARY ARRESTS.

Theft 3, Quitting employment without giving due notice 1.

(Signed) W. H. WALLACE,  
Chairman.

By order,  
C. BERKELEY MITCHELL,  
Secretary.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS".]

### EXTRADITION OF CHINESE.

SIR,—In view of the many misleading and incorrect statements, reflecting not only on the action of the Colonial Government and its officers, but also on the conduct of the Chinese Government and Chinese officials, which have appeared in the local press on the subject of the extradition of Chinese, I am directed to request you to be good enough to publish this letter for the information of your readers.

The handing over to China of Chinese subjects accused of committing crimes in China and found in this Colony is regulated by Treaty and local Ordinance.

The procedure may be summarized as follows:

The Viceroy of the Province in which the alleged crime has been committed forwards a requisition to the British Consul at his Provincial City for transmission to the Governor of Hongkong requesting the Governor to hand over the Chinese subject charged with committing the offence to a Chinese officer specially detailed for the duty; this requisition contains a specific undertaking by the Viceroy that the accused, if handed over, will be tried in the presence of a British Consular Officer for the offence in respect of which his extradition is demanded and for no other offence, and this undertaking is invariably carried out.

Upon receipt of this requisition the Governor orders one of the Magistrates to have the accused brought before him and to enquire into the charge. The Magisterial enquiry is conducted in the same manner as in the case of a person accused of the commission of a crime in Hongkong, and if the Magistrate finds that the evidence is such that in the case of a local offence he would commit the accused for trial at the Criminal Sessions, he commits him to gaol to await the further order of the Governor. During his trial the accused has all the rights and privileges of a British subject charged with a crime.

The depositions are then forwarded by the Magistrate to the Governor together with a report on the case; an interval of fifteen days elapses during which the accused may apply to the Supreme Court for a Writ of Habeas Corpus, then, if no such application is made the Governor may order the accused to be handed over to the proper Chinese official, who conducts him into China for trial before the proper judge of the Provincial City whence the requisition emanated. Such trial is held in the presence of a British Consular Officer, and unless the accused is then convicted of the offence in respect of which he has been handed over, he is restored to British Territory and set at liberty.

If the accused has resided for a year or upwards in Hongkong, the depositions and Magistrate's report thereon must be considered by the Governor-in-Council with the assistance of the Chief Justice.

If the offence in respect of which the surrender of the accused is demanded is of a political character, or if he proves that his surrender has been demanded in order to try or punish him for an offence of a political character, the accused cannot be surrendered.

No person is surrendered unless he is a Chinese subject.

This procedure has been in force since 1889 with little variation.

In May and June, 1905, the present Chief Justice, in the case of Wong Ka Shing, pointed out that the Chinese Authorities have no *locus standi* in these proceedings, as extradition is an executive act of the Hongkong Government at the request of the Chinese Government. The Hongkong Government is bound to act on the requisition and the ensuing proceedings are between the Crown and the accused. Since that decision all extradition proceedings have been conducted by the Police with or without the assistance of myself or my assistants.

If the case comes before the Supreme Court the Chinese Government cannot be heard there, only the Crown and the accused have

any *locus standi*, and consequently the conduct of the case for the Crown necessarily devolves on the Attorney-General, instructed by myself. In those, as in all Criminal proceedings, the Law Officers here, as in England, are charged with the double duty of prosecuting and advising the Government.

In order to prevent the escape of a suspected criminal pending the arrival of the official requisition, a Magistrate is empowered to arrest and detain the suspect on such evidence being laid before him as would, in his opinion, justify the issue of a warrant if the crime had been committed in the Colony; but no further proceedings can be taken until the requisition arrives, and the Governor issues his order thereon.

In the recent case of In Ki Shing the requisition from the Viceroy was in the usual form and contained the usual engagement securing a trial in the presence of a Consular Officer limited to the charge enquired into by the Hongkong Magistrate.

The officers of the Magistracy, using forms similar to those in use at the Bow Street Police Court in London, had previously caused In Ki Shing's arrest as a suspect upon an information and warrant which the Full Court held to be technically defective, and, owing to a misconstruction of one of the provisions of the Ordinance, the Magistrate used another wrong form after receipt of the Governor's order under the requisition.

The Full Court held that the proceedings had been void *ab initio* and discharged the prisoner on these grounds, although it did not disagree with the view taken by the Magistrate and Mr. Justice Wisn with regard to the evidence against the accused.

The Full Court also decided that the engagement above referred to must be given by the Central Government at Peking, and that an engagement by a Provincial Viceroy was insufficient, but the discharge of In Ki Shing was not based on this decision.

Hitherto the Viceroy's engagement has been accepted and has, I believe, been invariably honestly carried out, but in future an engagement will be required from the Central Government at Peking.

Yours &c.,  
F. B. L. BOWLEY,  
Crown Solicitor.

### THE CHINA BANK.

The National Bank of China has issued the following regulations concerning extension of its trade:

1.—The capital of this bank will be increased from Tls. 5,000,000 to Tls. 10,000,000, which sum will be divided into 100,000 shares, of Tls. 100 each.

2.—The Board of Finances will see that no foreign subjects are permitted to become shareholders of this bank.

3.—The shares are only transferable among the Chinese people, and they will be cancelled if the holders sell them to the subjects of any foreign countries.

4.—The head office will be established at Peking with branches and agencies at the various Treaty Ports and big and important business centres throughout the Chinese Empire.

5.—The bank is the National Bank of China, but it will transact all descriptions of banking business in the same way as foreign banks in this country.

6.—The power of issuing notes will only be invested in this bank.

7.—The bank may perform all financial affairs for the Imperial Government of China.

8.—In case of monetary crises in any Province, the Directors of the Bank are at liberty to memorialize the Board of Finance for assistance.

9.—The Bank is placed under the control of the Board of Finance.

10.—The term of franchise granted to this Bank by the Chinese Government is thirty years. The term may be extended by permission of the Board.—"P. & T. Times."



## JAPAN.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

## JAPAN'S DISPUTES WITH CHINA.

Tokyo, March 6th.

The "inside" particulars regarding the seizure of the "Tatsu Maru" are doubtless as well known in Hongkong as they are here, but as far as we in Japan can judge there is no doubt that China is at fault in this particular instance and that her evasive diplomacy is delaying the settlement of the dispute. A semi-official statement is published in the Tokyo papers giving a most lucid account of the seizure of the "Tatsu Maru," and in the absence of anything like a full reply from China only one conclusion can be drawn. But the principal interest in the case is that it adds one more "question" to the long list pending between the two countries, and no one can see the end of these disputes. China is well aware, however, that the engagements Japan has entered into with England, France, and Russia while greatly improving Japan's status handicap her especially in her dealings with China. Were the positions of China and Japan reversed, China would at once appeal to the Powers for the settlement of the irritating disputes that have been on the board for months past and Japan would have nothing to say. But as the position is, Japan finds little sympathy—the penalty of rising importance—though in the Fukuman railway question England has recognised Japan's contention and left her a free hand to deal with the contractors. Japan is being attacked right and left for her doings in Manchuria. Those who have invested their money in the South Manchuria Railway, and are already regretting the fact, and those who have other interests in the country know that it is yet premature to arrive at any solid conclusions on the justice or effects of Japan's government and influence in the country. England at the beginning of the last century, when her empire was growing the world over, was not subject to the close scrutiny of every traveller who visited the new colonies and protectorates, but dominating nations to-day are not so favourably situated. Every move is watched, and without being pro-Japanese the foreigner who lives in Japan, or takes an interest in Manchurian questions can at once see that among the criticisms of Japan in Manchuria is a vast amount of worthless matter. Japan's acts will either justify her or condemn her in due time. She is scarcely beginning and she knows she is closely watched. The foreign Minister recently said he thought it rather hard the Japanese administration should be strongly criticised because of the acts of uncouth soldiers or low-class settlers—whose behaviour could not be very easily controlled—and probably, when the present anti-Japanese wave has passed on, the world will be of the same opinion too. We are waiting for a saner estimate of the Japanese than that which prevailed during the war or has been in vogue since.

## THE MONOPOLY CRAZE.

They are certainly experimenting in the science of government in this country. During the present session of the Diet representations have been brought forward recommending two new monopolies, connected with insurance and gold mining. The first is being seriously considered. Following the great Hakodate fire, the behaviour of the insurance companies was not satisfactory in all cases and liabilities were not settled with promptness. There were rumours of fraud and other things, all of which tended to fix government attention upon the conduct of insurance companies in general. Lately the fire companies have been increasing their rates, the principal forming a ring for that purpose, and the prospect of a private monopoly has led to the introduction of a representation in favour of a government monopoly. But the matter is not yet beyond the preliminary stage. The gold-mine monopoly proposal is brought forward on the ground that it is necessary for the gold resources of the country to be developed to their utmost in order to counteract the great exodus of gold. It is claimed that although the country is rich in gold deposits, the working is so unsatisfactory and primitive that the country is a great loser. Meanwhile, the actual monopolies of the Government are giving anything but satisfaction to the public. The people are now

paying much more for their tobacco than formerly and the railway service is constantly the subject of criticism. Seeing that the ostensible official reasons in advocacy of the policy of monopoly are increase of revenue and improvement of the thing monopolised, the public is justified in its complaints. Little improvement is to be noticed in what the Government has monopolized in recent years,—in fact its adventures into the commercial and industrial world seem to be mere exploitation of the country for revenue purposes. The Government at present controls the tobacco, salt, camphor, and railway industries and the sugar, insurance, and gold-mining industries are threatened. The fact that when a large industry begins to be profitable it is overshadowed by the possibility of nationalisation cannot benefit the country. It must discourage enterprise and encourage a weak reliance on the government instead of self-reliance, besides strengthening the forces of official corruption, one of the greatest evils in Japan.

## THE COMMERCIAL OUTLOOK

A succession of commercial failures has been reported in various parts of the country and it is natural that the depression should be reflected in the trade of Yokohama and Kobe. The depression is undoubtedly real among foreign firms. We hear of one old China firm closing its import department in Kobe and its export department in Yokohama, while the cutting down of expenses on all sides is universal. One or two important failures are likely to be recorded if the depression continues.

## THE TOKYO RAILWAY SCANDAL

This heading is not intended to suggest that scandalous proceedings have been discovered in connection with the Tokyo tramway municipalisation negotiations. The scandal, for scandal it is, and injurious to the interests of the people, lies in what follows. Several months ago the municipality of Tokyo and the tramway company drew up, and signed, a provisional agreement for the transfer of the tramways to the city. The Government's sanction to this agreement had to be obtained. Any man of commonsense would think that in the interest of all concerned the Government would promptly investigate and give its decision one way or the other, but nothing of the sort has been made public. The result of this unwise reticence is that the shares are flat. A call of 12.50 yen per new share is to be paid in before the end of this month and this means nearly 6,000,000 yen—a small amount to raise in these hard times. But this and the Government's silence have ruined the market of those shares and what is more the Government attitude is prejudicial to all business interests. The municipalisation question has now been raised in the Diet, where it has no business to be, for the matter is one between the Municipality and the tramway company, the Government to finally decide whether the provisional agreement should be approved or not. There is of course a strong party among the public against municipalisation, but the scheme has been agreed to by the elected representatives of the citizens and is strongly supported by the Mayor, who is a firm believer in the advantages to be derived by the city in the ownership of the trams. The usual charges have been made of corrupt practices, without which, seemingly, no contract can be closed in Japan, but in the midst of the long drawn out agitation, the government authorities have neglected their duty. To have decided one way or the other before certain measures had passed the Diet would have placed strong parties in opposition and hence decision is deferred until it can be made without danger of placing government bills in jeopardy.

It is impossible to say whether the provisional agreement will be approved or, if rejected, a further compromise agreed to by the tramway company. The latter will be ill-advised if it entertains any proposal for a reduction of the price agreed upon. If it does it will simply be the sacrifice of the genuine investors' interest in favour of large holders who are in a corner owing to the continued depression of the stockmarket.

H.E. the Governor has been pleased to appoint Mr. H. A. W. Stude to be a member of the Sanitary Board, Medical Board and Governing Body of Queen's College, during the absence on leave of the Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett, or until further notice.

## COMMERCIAL.

## COAL.

Messrs. Hughes and Hough, in their Coal Report dated Hongkong, 20th March, state that 12 steamers are expected at Hongkong with a total of 46,400 tons of coal. Since 4th inst. 10 steamers have arrived with a total of 37,330 tons of coal. Market quiet.

## Quotations:—

Cardiff.....\$— to \$— ex-ship, nominal  
Australian.....12.06 ex-ship, sellers.  
Yubari Lump...\$12.00 nominal.  
Miki Lump...\$10.50 to \$11.00 ex nominal.  
Moji Lump.....\$6.50 to \$9.00 ex-ship, steady.  
Moji Unscreened \$6.00 to \$8.00 ex-ship, steady.  
Akaike Lump...\$8.75 to \$9.00 steady.  
Labuan Lump \$9.25 ex-ship sellers.

## RAW COTTON

HONGKONG, 20th March.—Market quiet, nothing doing. Stock about 3,000 bales.  
Bombay.....\$20.00 to \$21.00 per cpl  
Bengal (New), Rangoon  
and Dacca ..... 21.00 to 25.00 "  
Shanghai and Japanese 27.00 to 27.50 "  
Tungchow and Ningpo 27.00 to 27.50 "  
Reported sales, 100 bales.

## YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee, in his Report dated Hongkong 20th March, 1908, states:—There is rather less doing in this market and the past fortnight has been comparatively quiet. Dealers have still a large quantity of yarn on hand, with which, together with the goods now arriving, they are meeting what little country demand that exists. Best spinnings can still be placed at quotations, but medium and common threads are weak and holders will concede in price to effect sales. Deliveries show a trifling improvement on last fortnight's figures, but as receipts are comparatively large, our estimate of stock shows a slight increase. Bombay is reported quiet with little business doing. At the close business is at a complete standstill, and contrary to expectations the feeling amongst importers is not strong, and weakness is observable in many quarters. Sales of the interval aggregate 3,707 bales, arrivals amount to 7,714 bales, unsold stock estimated at 29,000, and sold but uncleared stock in second hands at 20,000 bales. Local Manufacture:—No business is reported. Japanese Yarn:—In sympathy with the home markets a concession of \$2 per bale has induced the undernoted business, say 25 bales No. 16s at \$118, and 300 bales No. 20s at \$120 to \$133. Raw Cotton:—Indian descriptions remain very weak, the market being flooded by heavy shipments which are all going into godowns. The sale of a small parcel of 45 bales superfine New Bengals at \$24 is the only business of the interval. In China kinds 70 bales Thoochow have changed hands at \$24, Stocks 3,375 bales Indian, and 470 bales China (small). Quotations are \$20 to \$24 Indian and \$21 to \$24 China. Exchange on India, after some fluctuations, closes unsteady to-day at Rs. 141½ for T/T and Rs. 142 for Post. On Shanghai 74½ and on Japan 92. The undernoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended the 14th instant, viz:—Indian:—Market dull during the greater part of the fortnight, but active at the close. Total sales about 4,000 bales at steady to firm rates. Estimated stock about 85,000 bales. Japanese:—Prices are lower in sympathy with the Osaka market. Total sales about 2,000 bales on the basis of Tls. 85½ to 92½ for No. 16s, and Tls. 95 to 103 for No. 20s. Market closing weak. Local:—There has been a sudden revival in the demand for these threads after their depression for many months past, and sales of over 7,000 bales are reported on the basis of late quotations.

## PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Report, dated Shanghai, March 12th, 1908, states:—The week under review has on the whole been a very quiet one, the dealers anxiously waiting for advices from the consuming districts. It was only late last night that anything definite was received from Tientsin, so that it has not been possible to glean much information, but from what we have gathered the market there is about on a parity with this, with the feeling there it would have been better had not some holders had pressure brought to bear on them and forced to sell. However, it is said fresh orders have now come down, and holders here who were getting somewhat discouraged, and were inclined in some instances to cut rates, have now taken fresh heart.



and are asking higher prices again. Most of the cargoes by the early steamers have now been declared and about confirm the figures we gave as regards Piece Goods, but there is a discrepancy as to Cotton Yarn, which may of course be made up by subsequent declarations. There is no further encouragement from Newchwang, but the first steamers for that Port are expected to leave at about the end of next week. It will be interesting to see if they meet with any success in the way of Piece Goods and Yarn. According to the speech made by the Chairman of one of our local Cotton Mills at the Annual Meeting the other day Japanese goods are usurping in Manchuria even the native woven Nankeens in which the locally spun Yarn is largely used, and a great deal of the depression the Mills have met with here is accounted for by that fact. Hankow and the other River markets appear to have supplied their wants for the present, clearances of former purchases going on satisfactorily as a rule, however. The Railway from this via Soochow is expected to be open to Nanking its terminus in a few weeks, if not days time, pending the proper adjustment of the likin question on goods so carried. At present it is prohibitive, but we understand sufficient evidence has been collected and sent in to compel the Government to make enquiries and place goods on an equitable footing with those carried by Junk via the Creeks. With most makers in Manchester it continued to be comparatively easy to connect, but some of the weavers of Standard cloths are engaged well on to the Autumn. Business to a very fair extent is being done in Greys and Whites for this market, mostly to replace sales from stock and to arrive, and to keep up the supply of well known chops and cloths. Cotton in Liverpool continues to fluctuate, but within comparatively narrow limits, coming yesterday 6.12d. for Mid American, but this morning 6.65d. The quotation for "futures" yesterday was 5.69d. Egyptian is unchanged. The New York market keeps very firm and full prices are wanted for all classes of goods, making the laying down cost 10 per cent. to 15 per cent. over prices current here. Cotton quotations there are rather easier, namely 10.76 cents for March and 10.52 cents for May "option." To-day 10.37 cents comes as the price for July option. The low prices, comparatively, that local spinners have elected to accept are attracting the attention of exporters to Tientsin who are giving them the preference to Indian Spinnings at the price. The continued weakness of the Osaka market is causing operators to hold off here and prices are certainly easier. Indian Yarns are fairly firm especially No. 20s. the stock of which is steadily dwindling. Clearances of all kinds are satisfactory. Fresh business in staple makes this week has not been so general, first hand holders of available stocks being comparatively scarce. Those who have are getting rid of them as gracefully as possible and replacing for later shipment. The private market for fancy goods is very depressed, and with prices coming down at home with some rapidity holders here are not to be envied. The continued large quantities that are being slaughtered at Auction will effectually prevent any recovery becoming possible.

#### SHARE REPORTS.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending 5th March, 1908, states:—There has been a fair general business put through since our last, and rates in most cases have advanced or been well maintained. The T. T. rate on London to-day is 2/6. Banks.—H. & S. Banks. Shares have changed hands at \$712½ with exchange at 73, and the market closes with buyers at this rate. Insurance.—Unions. Shares have been imported from Hongkong during the week at \$840 with Hongkong Exchange. North-China Insurance shares. There are sellers at Tls. 80. Shipping.—There is no business reported, this week. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co. Ltd. A small lot of shares were taken off the market at Tls. 81 for March and there is a demand at current rates, viz. Tls. 80 cash and Tls. 81 for March. Shanghai & Hongkew Wharves. In the early part of the week transactions were reported as low as Tls. 211½ for cash and Tls. 215 for June. A steady demand set in since, which has carried rates to Tls. 216 cash, Tls. 217 for March and Tls. 221½ for June. We hear of unreported sales for Dec. at Tls. 222½. Sugars.—Nothing reported. Mining.—Chinese Engineering & Mining Co. shares have declined to Tls. 15, at which rate there are sellers. Lands.—A consistent demand for shares has increased rates from Tls. 105 to Tls. 106, the market closing fairly steady. Industrial.—There has been a fair demand for Ewo Cotton Shares at current rate, but no business reported. Shanghai Gas Co. Sales have been made of small lots at Tls. 104 ex

div. Shanghai Pulp & Paper Co. Shares are wanted at Tls. 45 cash, and there are sellers reported at Tls. 46 March. Maatschappij, &c., in Langkats. On the 5th instant rates prevailing were Tls. 420 March and Tls. 435 June, and the market remained steady until after the General Meeting on the 20th instant, when a strong demand set in and as usual in this stock, rates quickly advanced without business to Tls. 432½ for cash and Tls. 435 for June. On the 11th sales were reported at Tls. 440 and Tls. 439 March delivery with buyers for June at Tls. 452½. Shanghai-Sumatra Tobaccos have been placed at Tls. 123 for cash and March delivery. Miscellaneous.—Hall & Holtz. Shares have changed hands at \$23½. Weeks & Co. shares are wanted at \$22. A sale of Central ordinary shares is reported at \$12. Lane, Crawford & Co. A transaction has taken place at \$137½ for cash. Telephones have been dealt in at Tls. 54. Shanghai Tramways. There has been a good and constant demand for shares. The rate prevailing at the beginning of the week was £11, but this subsequently advanced and transactions are reported at £11.5s, £11.7.6, and £11.12.6. The market closed with buyers at the latter figure.

HONGKONG, 20th March, 1908.—A fair amount of investment business has been transacted during the week under review, and rates on the whole have continued steady. Bar silver closes at 25½, and Exchange on London at 1/10½ T.T., and on Shanghai at 7½ T.T. The Bank of England rate of discount has been reduced to 3 per cent., and the market rate for 3 months' bills to 2½ per cent.

BANKS.—Hongkong & Shanghai have again been booked at \$85, the market closing steady. London is unchanged at £75 10s. 0d. National is \$51 without feature.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have been in further demand at \$840 at which rate a small sale is reported; and China Traders continued in request at \$91. North Chinas are easier with sellers at Tls. 84. Yangtzes and Cantons are unchanged.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have been booked at \$295 and a few more shares are wanted. There are sellers of China Fires at \$89 after sales at the rate and at \$88.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been booked, and are in further request at \$29. Indo-Chinas are quoted at \$38 and \$26 for the Preferred and D-ferrid combined, and at this there are probable buyers. China and Manilla and Douglas continue on offer at quotations, and there are sellers of Shell Transports at 4½. Id. Star Ferries are somewhat firmer at \$28 and \$14 for the old and new issues respectively.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars are somewhat firmer, and after sales at \$108 and \$109 close in further request. Luxons are unchanged and have not been dealt in during the interval.

MINING.—Charbonnages have hardened and can now be placed at \$540. Rauba have been booked at \$8.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Sales of Hongkong & Whampoa Docks are reported at \$96 and \$98, the market closing with sellers at the higher rate. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves are steady at \$53 ex the dividend of \$1½ per share on the old issue paid on the 16th instant. The new issue is quoted at the same figure, being now identical, and ranking for dividend as from the 1st January last. Shanghai Docks, after sales at Tls. 80, are slightly easier with sellers at that rate, and no buyers over Tls. 79. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves have been sent to the north at Tls. 216 and Tls. 214, and more shares are probably procurable at the lower rate.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands are unchanged with sellers at \$100, and Hongkong Hotels at \$98 sellers. Humphreys' Estates have been booked at \$10, and more shares can be placed. West Point continues in request in a small way at \$48.

COTTON MILLS.—No business is reported in this section, and quotations close without any material change.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China-Borneos have been booked at \$11½ and \$11½ and close with buyers at the former rate. Dairy Farms have improved to \$17 with buyers, and South China Morning Posts to \$23. Hongkong Milling have again been negotiated at \$13½, at which rate the market closes firm. Green Island Cement can still be procured at \$11½ after sales at the rate

and at \$11½. China Lights are easier with sellers at \$5. Peak Trams are steady with sales of old at \$13, and new at \$2.

Quotations are as follows:—

| COMPANY.                         | PAID UP.            | QUOTATIONS.                      |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Alhambra                         | Ps. 200             | Nominal                          |
| Banks—                           |                     |                                  |
| Hongkong & S'hai                 | \$125               | \$695, sales & sel.              |
| National B. of China             | 28                  | \$51                             |
| Bell's Asbestos E. A.            | 12s. 6d.            | \$74, buyers                     |
| China-Borneo Co.                 | \$12                | \$11½, buyers                    |
| China Light & P. Co.             | { \$10 }<br>{ \$1 } | { \$5, sellers<br>{ \$9, sellers |
| China Provident                  | \$10                | \$9, sellers                     |
| Cotton Mills—                    |                     |                                  |
| Ewo                              | Tls. 50             | Tls. 54                          |
| Hongkong                         | \$10                | \$9, sellers                     |
| International                    | Tls. 75             | Tls. 55                          |
| Laou Kung Mow                    | Tls. 100            | Tls. 75                          |
| Soychee                          | Tls. 500            | Tls. 270                         |
| Dairy Farm                       | \$6                 | \$17, buyers                     |
| Docks & Wharves—                 |                     |                                  |
| H. & K. Wharf & G.               | \$50                | \$53, ex div                     |
| H. & W. Dock                     | \$50                | \$98, sellers                    |
| New Amoy Dock                    | \$61                | \$10                             |
| Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd. | Tls. 100            | Tls. 79                          |
| S'hai & H. Wharf                 | Tls. 100            | Tls. 214, sellers                |
| Fenwick & Co., Geo.              | \$25                | \$13, sellers                    |
| G. Island Cement                 | \$10                | \$11½, sellers                   |
| Hongkong & C. Gas                | \$10                | \$175                            |
| Hongkong Electric                | \$10                | \$15, sales                      |
| Hongkong Hotel Co.               | \$50                | \$98, sellers                    |
| Hongkong Ice Co.                 | \$25                | \$225                            |
| H. K. Milling Co., Ltd.          | \$100               | \$150                            |
| Hongkong Rope Co.                | \$10                | \$20                             |
| Insurances—                      |                     |                                  |
| Canton                           | \$50                | \$210, sellers                   |
| China Fire                       | \$20                | \$89                             |
| China Traders                    | \$25                | \$91, buyers                     |
| Hongkong Fire                    | \$50                | \$295, sales                     |
| North China                      | \$25                | Tls. 84, sellers                 |
| Union                            | \$100               | \$847½, sellers                  |
| Yangtze                          | \$60                | { \$147½<br>{ \$137½             |
| Land and Buildings—              |                     |                                  |
| H'kong Land Invest.              | \$100               | \$100, sellers                   |
| Humphreys' Estate                | \$10                | \$10, sales                      |
| Kowloon Land & B.                | \$30                | \$27, sellers                    |
| Shanghai Land                    | Tls. 50             | Tls. 106                         |
| West Point Building              | \$50                | \$48, buyers                     |
| Mining—                          |                     |                                  |
| Charbonnages                     | Fr. 250             | \$540, buyers                    |
| Raub                             | 18.10               | \$8, sales & seller              |
| Peak Tramways                    | { \$10 }<br>{ \$1 } | { \$13,<br>{ \$2                 |
| Philippine Co.                   | \$10                | \$7½, buyers                     |
| Refineries—                      |                     |                                  |
| China Sugar                      | \$100               | \$100, sellers                   |
| Luxon Sugar                      | \$100               | \$15                             |
| Steamship Companies              |                     |                                  |
| China and Manila                 | \$25                | \$12, sellers                    |
| Douglas Steamship                | \$50                | \$40, sellers                    |
| H. Canton & M.                   | \$15                | \$20, buyers                     |
| Indo-China S. N. Co.             | 25                  | { \$38<br>{ \$26                 |
| Shell Transport Co.              | 21                  | 44/3                             |
| Star Ferry                       | \$10                | \$28, buyers                     |
| Do. New                          | \$5                 | \$14, buyers                     |
| South China M. Post.             | \$25                | \$23, buyers                     |
| Steam Laundry Co.                | \$5                 | \$6, sellers                     |
| Stores & Dispensaries            |                     |                                  |
| Campbell, M. & Co.               | \$10                | \$17                             |
| Powell & Co., Wm.                | \$10                | \$5                              |
| Watkins                          | \$10                | \$24                             |
| Watson & Co., A. S.              | \$10                | \$10, sales                      |
| Wiedemann Ltd.                   | \$100               | \$105                            |
| United Asbestos                  | \$4                 | \$10, buyers                     |
| Do. Founders                     | \$0                 | \$150, buyers                    |
| Union Waterboat Co.              | \$10                | \$10, sales                      |

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

#### FREIGHTS.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 45/- per ton of 40c. ft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 45/- per ton of 40c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) General Cargo 30/- per ton of 40c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez), Tea 37/6 per ton of 40c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (Overland) per carload, Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb gross, less than carload Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb gross plus river freight. To Shanghai.—Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 1.60 to 1.80 per ton, weight or measurement.



## EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, March 20th

|                                    |                |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| ON LONDON.—Telegraphic Transfer... | 1/10 1/2       |
| Bank Bills, on demand              | 1/10 1/2       |
| Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight      | 1/10 1/2       |
| Bank Bills at 4 months' sight      | 1/10 1/2       |
| Credits, at 4 months' sight        | 1/11           |
| Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight | 1/11 1/4       |
| ON PARIS —                         |                |
| Bank Bills, on demand              | 2 3/4          |
| Credits 4 months' sight            | 2 1/2          |
| ON GERMANY.—                       |                |
| On demand                          | 192 1/2        |
| ON NEW YORK.—                      |                |
| Bank Bills, on demand              | 4 1/2          |
| Credits, 60 days' sight            | 4 1/2          |
| ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer    | 14 1/2         |
| Bank, on demand                    | 14 1/2         |
| ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer  | 14 1/2         |
| Bank on demand                     | 14 1/2         |
| ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight        | 7 1/2          |
| Private, 30 days' sight            | 7 1/2          |
| ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand             | 92 1/2         |
| ON MANILA.—On demand               | 92 1/2         |
| ON SINGAPORE.—On demand            | 23 p.c. pm.    |
| ON BATAVIA.—On demand              | 11 1/2         |
| ON HAIPHONG.—On demand             | 6 1/2 p.c. pm. |
| ON SAIGON.—On demand               | 6 1/2 p.c. pm. |
| ON BANGKOK.—On demand              | 80             |
| SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate     | \$10.45        |
| GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael      | \$ 5.00        |
| BAR SILVER, per oz                 | 25 1/2         |

## SUBSIDIARY COINS.

|          |                 | per cent        |
|----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Chinese  | 20 cents pieces | 83.65 discount. |
| "        | 10 "            | 8.95 "          |
| Hongkong | 20 "            | 7.91 "          |
| "        | 10 "            | 8.15 "          |

## SHIPPING.

## ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

March—

## ARRIVALS.

- 11, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 11, Koun Maru, Jap. str., from Kuchinotzu.
- 11, Kwongsang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 12, Ceylan, French str., from Antwerp.
- 12, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., from Swatow.
- 12, Glenturret, British str., from Singapore.
- 12, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
- 12, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
- 12, Johanne, German str., from Haiphong.
- 12, Kutsang, British str., from Moji.
- 12, Lennox, British str., from Saigon.
- 12, Paoting, British str., from Wuhu.
- 12, Yochow, British str., from Shanghai.
- 13, Brasilia, German str., from Yokohama.
- 13, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 13, Chowfa, German str., from Bangkok.
- 13, Fiume, German str., from Hongay.
- 13, Kumsang, British str., from Calcutta.
- 13, Nanchang, British str., from Amoy.
- 13, Saint Patrick, Brit. str., from Shanghai.
- 13, Shantung, German str., from Bangkok.
- 13, Solstad, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
- 13, Taming, British str., from Manila.
- 13, Vorwaerts, Austrian str., from Kobe.
- 14, Helene, German str., from Tourane.
- 14, Kashing, British str., from Pasinann.
- 14, Swanley, British str., from Chinwantao.
- 15, Curonia, Russian str., from Copenhagen.
- 15, Dagny, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
- 15, Haitan, French str., from Hoibow.
- 15, Haimun, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 15, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Swatow.
- 15, Tonkin, French str., from Yokohama.
- 15, Wingsang, British str., from Wuhu.
- 16, Chihli, British str., from Haiphong.
- 16, Dagmar, German str., from Bangkok.
- 16, Kaifong, British str., from Iloilo.
- 16, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 16, Mandasan M., Jap. str., from Kuchinotzu.
- 16, Mathilde, German str., from Haiphong.
- 16, Nikko Maru, Jap. str., from Melbourne.
- 16, Quarta, German str., from Pararvean.
- 16, Sanuki Maru, Japanese str., from Kobe.
- 16, Teucer, British str., from Liverpool.
- 16, Tourane, French str., from Marseilles.
- 16, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
- 17, Amara, British str., from Chefoo.
- 17, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
- 17, Cheangchow, British str., from Singapore.
- 17, Chipshing, British str., from Tientsin.
- 17, Devawongse, German str., from Bangkok.
- 17, Drufar, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
- 17, Froya, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
- 17, Hongwan I, British str., from Singapore.

- 17, Knivsberg, German str., from Tourane.
- 17, Persia, Austrian str., from Trieste.
- 17, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
- 17, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
- 18, Aeolus, American str., from Manila.
- 18, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 18, Joshin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
- 18, Kiukiang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 18, Laertes, British str., from Saigon.
- 18, Myrtedens, British str., from Moji.
- 18, Suisang, British str., from Penang.
- 18, Szechuen, British str., from Wuhu.
- 19, Ambria, German str., from Nagasaki.
- 19, Bellerophon, British str., from Tacoma.
- 19, Chatham, British str., from Saigon.
- 19, Japan, British str., from Calcutta.
- 19, Kamakura Maru, Jap. str., from London.
- 19, Mausang, British str., from Sandakan.

March—

## DEPARTURES.

- 11, Arabia, German str., for Portland.
- 11, Courtfield, British str., for Durban.
- 11, Feiching, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 11, Goeben, German str., for Europe, &c.
- 11, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Swatow.
- 11, Nubia, Dutch str., for Shanghai.
- 11, Nubia, British str., for Singapore.
- 11, Princess Alice, Ger. str., for Shanghai.
- 11, Soshu Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
- 11, Totomi Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
- 11, Yesan Maru, Jap. str., for Kuchinotzu.
- 12, E. of China, British str., for Vancouver.
- 12, Fausang, British str., for Saigon.
- 12, Hangchow, British str., for Shanghai.
- 12, Phranang, German str., for Bangkok.
- 12, Prometheus, Norwegian str., for Swatow.
- 12, Samsen, German str., for Bangkok.
- 12, Standard, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
- 12, Strombus, British str., for Balik Papan.
- 12, Waishing, British str., for Swatow.
- 13, Anghin, German str., for Hoibow.
- 13, Caithness, British str., for Calcutta.
- 13, Capri, Italian str., for Singapore.
- 13, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
- 13, Hellas, German str., for Hongay.
- 13, Holstein, German str., for Hoibow.
- 13, Ithaka, German str., for Hongay.
- 13, Kweiyang, British str., for Newchwang.
- 13, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
- 13, Omoro Maru, Japanese str., for Hongay.
- 13, Taintan, German str., for Amoy.
- 14, Clara Jebson, German str., for Haiphong.
- 14, Fooksang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 14, Glenturret, British str., for Shanghai.
- 14, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
- 14, Kalgan, British str., for Chefoo.
- 14, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
- 14, Tainan, British str., for Manila & Sydney.
- 15, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
- 15, Hanoi, French str., for K. C. Wan.
- 15, Hupeh, British str., for Haiphong.
- 15, Luchow, British str., for Ningpo.
- 15, Pongtong, German str., for Swatow.
- 15, Vorwaerts, Austrian str., for Singapore.
- 16, Glamorganshire, Brit. str., for Bangkok.
- 16, Halvard, Norwegian str., for Hongay.
- 16, Koun Maru, Japanese str., for Saigon.
- 16, Muefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 16, Tourane, French str., for Shanghai.
- 17, Borneo, German str., for Sandakan.
- 17, Brasilia, German str., for Singapore.
- 17, Curonia, Russian str., for Vladivostok.
- 17, Haimun, British str., for Coast Ports.
- 17, Iyo Maru, Japanese str., for Shanghai.
- 17, J. Diederichsen, German str., for Hoibow.
- 17, Johanne, German str., for Pakhoi.
- 17, Kiangching, Chinese str., for Kaboo.
- 17, Kutsang, British str., for Singapore.
- 17, Kwongsang, British str., for Swatow.
- 17, Nanchang, British str., for Tsingtau.
- 17, Taming, British str., for Manila.
- 17, Tonkin, French str., for Europe, &c.
- 17, Tremont, Am. str., for Moji and Tacoma.
- 18, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 18, Fukushu Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
- 18, Kashing, British str., for Amoy.
- 18, Nikko Maru, Japanese str., for Nagasaki.
- 18, Sanuki Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
- 18, Saxta, German str., for Saigon.
- 18, Shantung, German str., for Swatow.
- 18, Yochow, British str., for Shanghai.
- 19, Asco, British str., for Nororan.
- 19, Cheangchow, British str., for Amoy.
- 19, Fookshing, British str., for Fookchow.
- 19, Hongwan I, British str., for Amoy.
- 19, Mandasan Maru, Jap. str., for Nagasaki.
- 19, Persia, Austrian str., for Shanghai.
- 19, Rajah, German str., for Bangkok.
- 19, Solstad, Norwegian str., for Phuyen.

## PASSENGERS.

## ARRIVED.

Per *Haitan*, from Coast Ports, Messrs. Foerster and Asker.  
 Per *Kwongsang*, from Shanghai, &c., Mr and Mrs Maurer, and Mr Arthur Wel i.  
 Per *Haimun*, from Coast Ports, Mr and Mrs Vendelet, Mr and Mrs Cummings and child, Rev. Macgowan, and Mr Clansen.  
 Per *Princess Alice*, for Hongkong, from Hamburg, Miss L. Jabecken, Messrs. Wieja, Buschow, P. Kurzweil, and C. Balzersen; from Antwerp, Mrs. C. Riwe; from Southampton, Mr and Mrs Holyack, Mrs O'Halloran, Miss Warren, Messrs. Baldwin and party, J. Owen, and H. B. Stott; from Genoa, Mr and Mrs A. Moll, Mr and Mrs Merrill, Mrs and Miss Corbett, Mrs Goetz & party, Miss A. Heinrichsen, Major Fischer, Dr. Krapfenbauer, Messrs. v. d. Heyde, P. Gredon, L. Kuttner, Paul Krapfenbauer, E. Krebs, H. Chaussey, & Th. Hagapfel; from Port Said, Mr & Mrs Jacobs, Mrs Brown, from Colombo, Mr and Mrs Nobbe, Rev. and Mrs Hicks, Messrs. A. Howard, Robertson and party; from Penang, Rev. Bro. James, Messrs. Frank Mills, P. L. Goodwin, T. Woolsey & party; from Singapore, Mr and Mrs Sternfield, Mr and Mrs Deterding, Mr and Mrs Ayres, Mr and Mrs Hunter, Mr and Mrs Woldringh, Mrs C. la Trianera, Miss M. N. De'ay, Miss A. G. Merrill, Messrs. Vonck, F. X. McDonald, Lane, Samuels, Kessler, Ayres, Ch. Edwards, F. H. Staples, Ch. Baker, G. Dean, M. A. Gani, Kimura, Okalei, and Kamaziwa.

## DEPARTED.

Per *Princess Alice*, for Shanghai, Mr and Mrs Nahr, Mr and Mrs Metzentlin, Mr and Mrs Bernard, Mr and Mrs Marco, Mrs de Premesnil, Mrs Sanches and 2 children, Mrs C. Chamberlain, Misses Jamar, Marshall, A. Leon, and Gicen, Dr. Hays, Dr. H. Ginsberg, Dr. E. Ginsberg, General Larnax, Messrs. Asker, A. C. Boughton, J. W. Switzer, K. Oldorp, A. Neumann, A. Haupt, Feudlay, L. Weil, Kermse, W. Ellis, J. C. de Pima, G. Pageot, C. Bryan, Curt Lorenz, A. Stubbe, J. Cruz, Wm. Pothie, Th. Adair and servant; for Nagasaki, Messrs. Hosliga, Ingosima, Sagata, Kawanana, Sasaki, and Satao; for Kobe, Mrs and Miss Melhuish, Miss Dowlall, Messrs. Robt. Frick and Y. Isumara; for Yokohama, Mr and Mrs G. Sachs, Mr & Mrs G. Compere & child, Mrs F. D. Cammer, Lieut. D. G. Bohlan, Dr. Stephan, Papowitz, Messrs. G. Y. Artberg, Allen Whiting, S. Padgett, C. Wick, A. Heumker, and F. H. Cammer.  
 Per *Goeben*, for Bremen, &c., Mr and Mrs R. S. Buck, Mr and Mrs Charles C. Brunn, Mr and Mrs Braun, Mr and Mrs Miss Devore, Mr and Mrs Dunlap, Mr and Mrs Heinrich, Mr and Mrs Hoffmann La Roche, Mr and Mrs W. B. Longdon, Mr and Mrs W. Mertens, Mr and Mrs Middelndorf, Mr and Mrs Parrish, Mr and Mrs Parrot, Mr and Mrs A. Rader, Mr and Mrs T. F. Stoddiey, Mr and Mrs Traw, Mr and Mrs E. Weber, Mr and Mrs S. v. d. Werf, Rev. Dr. and Mrs Cortland Myers, Dr. & Mrs Marshall, Dr. & Mrs Pairs Haiton, Sub-Lt. Schoenfeld, Mrs C. Bunting, Mrs E. Dahl, Mrs G. Dahl, Mrs Heitsma Muller, Mrs Kummer, Mrs Crabbe-Pastner, Mrs Staffers and family, Mrs Unverzagt, Misses Groth, Ri a Geibel, Hinderson, Harper, Anna Looser Meyer, Nesbitt, Hilda Nae, Joh Reinecke, and v. Voilenhoven, Dr. Carl Fritze, Capt. Langkorn, Capt. Nauer, Major Erikson and family, Messrs. C. Ackert, A. F. Afshaw, Baring, Chr. Behrens, Bernhard, John B. Bourne, F. Hoemker, Cortland Myers jun., S. H. Davies, Aug. Fischer, Finsober, A. B. C. Francis, G. Gomez, W. D. Graham, José Guis, Hoely, W. C. Hartmann, H. S. Hull, G. W. Harjee, E. Hammond, Hoobler, W. Hentschel, C. Jan-son Kessler and family, Ch. R. Kelly, A. Kindermann, F. H. Love, Langley, W. Littmann, Hermann Melchers and servant, P. Mertens, E. J. Moses, Masterton, G. Morake, C. Malcolm, J. B. Owens, H. P. Pilla, M. A. Pollay, C. Rutt, J. Ruckentrod, Carl Ranjach, E. V. Ruisman, H. Singleton, Sidebottom, Murve Scott, M. B. Swann, P. Suter, Salisbury, W. Schreiterer, F. B. Tollyday, Thoker, S. Tamaru, Talpo Umberto, R. C. Wright, Wallace, Warster, Wesseler, & Young.

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